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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-079 *25 April 1995*

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Trade Unions Hold Conference on Integration

MK1904124095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev under the "Knots" rubric: "CIS Trade Unions Fighting for Integration. Kazakh and Russian Peasants Continue Socialist Emulations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deciding yesterday to become a catalyst of integration processes inside the CIS were the Commonwealth's trade unions comprising the General Confederation of Trade Unions (VKP) which, in the wake of the USSR's disintegration, brought together, in the capacity of an international public organization, nine national and 40 sectoral trade unions.

A special concern in this matter is shown by the trade union bosses of border (or contiguous) areas. In addition to Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, the VKP has 75 such areas. Yesterday's conference, which formed a coordination council out of representatives of border areas, was not attended by defenders of Uzbek working people's economic interests.

All the other representatives went to the VKP's Moscow headquarters and elected Valentin Baranskiy, leader of the Vinnitsa Oblast independent trade unions, their coordination council head, following which they tried and fully revealed their potentials that could be channeled toward restoring economic and cultural cooperation in border areas.

As was found, the trade unions have sufficient potentials. The old trade union contacts between the areas help resolve the nonpayment problems between enterprises that found themselves in different states: Trade unions mediate in offsetting mutual debts through barter. They also cushion the impact of the "work force movement regime" where workers "live here but have to go to work abroad."

Many working people now, in order to meet with their "relations abroad," make use of cooperation in culture and sports: soccer matches, trips to mark anniversaries of towns and plants, amateur art contests and so on. Rural folk at some farms in Pavlodar (Kazakhstan) and Omsk (Russian Federation) Oblasts still try to outperform each other in work.

The conference, however, noted that the trade unions' potentials are restricted by "legal, economic, and political obstacles." For which reason members of the coordination council heard, not without interest, an announcement by Andrey Zakharov, Russian Federation State Duma deputy (Committee for the CIS Affairs), that in the pipeline is a draft law "On Support of Interests of the Russian Federation and Its Components on Border Territories," and decided to interact with CIS intergovernment organizations "with the aim of meshing legislation of the independent states so as to create a single economic and social space."

Armenia, Azerbaijan Agree To Exchange POWs

LD1904171095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (INTERFAX) - Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed on swapping hostages and prisoners of war by May 12, timed to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the regional ceasefire, Vladimir Kazimirov, Russia's special envoy and co-chairman of the OSCE-sponsored Minsk Conference for a Nagorno- Karabakh Settlement, told Interfax on Wednesday.

He said that a proposal on the prisoner exchange was made by conference co-chairmen on March 21.

The Russian diplomat said Azeri President Heydar Aliyev had accepted it while Armenia, in a gesture of goodwill, handed over six Azeri prisoners to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The prisoners were then flown aboard an ICRC aircraft from Yerevan to Baku on March 27.

He said negotiation was now under way with Karabakh leaders to try to persuade them to do the same.

Kazimirov said the prisoner exchange would mark a new step in the regional peace process and help assuage mutual suspicions.

Referring to ICRC reports, he put at several hundred the number of POWs and hostages held by both sides.

Both Russian and German parliaments have called for releasing POWs by May 12, the latest in a series of similar calls by legislators from other countries.

CIS Secretary Views Union of Slavic States, Kazakhstan

WS2104102395 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0800 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Karatchenya holds that one should not reject the idea of a Slavic union. He expressed this thought at his last press conference, when he was analyzing the processes that were taking place in the CIS and the problems concerning the integration of the former republics of the Soviet Union. In his opinion, this idea could become really topical today, if Ukraine at last accepts closer contacts with the two other Slavic states—Belarus and Russia—the countries that had no serious problems in their relations during the whole history of the Commonwealth. True, that union may not be purely Slavic, because, according to Ivan Karatchenya, the membership of Kazakhstan looks quite natural in it, as particularly this country, more precisely its President Nursultan Nazarbayev is the "generator of initiatives" with respect to many integration processes within the framework of the current Commonwealth, which, unfortunately, have not yet brought specific results. Touching on the question as to why it has happened so and why the relations

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between the CIS member-states have been developing very slowly for almost three and a half years, Ivan Karatchenya pointed out that there is nothing surprising in this, as in each former republic of the Soviet Union the building of statehood is based on their own legislative documents, which impeded and are impeding the achievement of mutual understanding and agreement as regards the solution of many serious problems within the framework of the whole Commonwealth. At the same time, similar problems are being solved at bilateral or trilateral levels, because with this number of contracting parties it is much easier to come to terms than when representatives of 12 countries are at the table of negotiations and each of them adheres to its own opinion.

IEC Founds Customs Union; Belarus, Russia Lift Barriers

MK2204115095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Konstantin Levin: "CIS Customs Union. There Will Be One Border Less in the Commonwealth"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin's pithy saying about the building of a "bridge between the inflationary past and investment future" has already done its job—the word "investments" has come to be the Russian Government's 1995 economic policy buzzword. Things have not reached the stage of large joint investments in the CIS yet. As has already happened in the history of the formation of European supranational institutions, the progress reached so far consists only in the founding of a customs union. Even so, however, the already existing potential for the acceleration of integration via the use of supranational institutions remains unused. The progress achieved in yesterday's sitting of the International Economic Committee (IEC) consisted only in providing better premises for its bureaucrats.

IEC Moves Into CEMA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] Building

Recent meetings of the heads of CIS member countries and governments spoke much and with a feeling of legitimate pride about the IEC. For the time being this body is only taking its first steps, which so far betray no signs of child prodigality. It now has its legal address, and its costs estimate and its rules have been approved. As regards the questions in solving which the IEC's voice can really prove decisive—the creation of a payment union and a customs union—the sitting only heard the Interstate Bank's report on measures leading to mutual convertibility of national currencies between the CIS countries. The outcome is very significant: the information was "taken into consideration" and the IEC recommended to the Interstate Bank council to disband: the bank had failed to find its niche after all. Interstate settlements are handled by the central banks, there were no and are no multilateral settlements; as for commercial banks, they have already created their own rather effective formulas of mutual settlements. The greater part of the IEC sitting was devoted to far from priority questions: shows and fairs activities, the utilization of compressed natural gas as motor fuel, and so on.

The next IEC meeting will take place in the building of the former CEMA, which is symbolic: up to now this body has been upholding CEMA traditions. The bureaucratic routine and the unwillingness by a number of countries to pass on to the IEC part of their prerogatives may leave it out of work.

Moscow and Minsk Dismantle Customs Posts

There was a saying about Russian political emigrants: "As soon as two Russians get together, they immediately form three political parties." This tradition seems to have been extrapolated into the realm of reintegration of the ex-USSR's republics. Participants in the CIS customs union have their own ideas about the ways and means of building it. In the latest sitting of the trilateral customs union commission, Kazakhstan came out against Russia's proposal to give the projected controlling body of the union supranational functions. It even objected to plans to grant the customs union's working body the right of legislative initiative concerned with modifying customs legal acts in the participant countries.

Against the backdrop of CIS countries' declining trade turnover, Russia-Belarus relations are going through a renaissance of sorts following the demise of a ruble anschluss of Belarus that never materialized [as published]. This early May will see the end of the first stage of the establishment of a bilateral customs union in the course of which the sides have once and for all dropped tariff and non-tariff restrictions in reciprocal trade, and extended to both states the Russian customs procedure and joint tariffs in regard to third countries (Minsk has also been posted on the draft of a new Russian import tariff and is ready to follow it). Next in turn is the scrapping of customs posts along the Russia-Belarus border. Minsk has already stopped financing its customs posts. A similar decision by the Russian Government is expected shortly.

Kazakh, Uzbek, Kyrgyz Prime Ministers Meet in Bishkek

LD2404071795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0604 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Boris Maynayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek, April 24 (ITAR-TASS)—The heads of government of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are meeting in Bishkek today to discuss practical implementation of the programme of economic integration of their three states.

Akezhan Qazhygeldin, Abdulkhashim Mutalov and Abbas Dzhumagulov are considering in particular, their republics' economic integration programmes for the period up to the year 2000.

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They also look into investment projects and plans for implementing the agreement on the creation of a single economic space in 1995.

The delegations led by the prime ministers to the one-day conference in Bishkek comprise ministers, representatives of leading enterprises and entrepreneurs.

Participants will be received by Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev, and they will then visit an exhibition of Iranian goods in Bishkek.

Further on Accords Signed in Bishkek

LD2404170595 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the council of prime ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan was held in Bishkek today. Kazakh Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin, chairman of the council; Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulhashim Mutalov; and Kyrgyz Prime Minister Apas Dzhumagulov took part in the meeting.

Programs for the economic integration of the three Central Asian states up to the year 2000 were reviewed and confirmed, and a list of investment projects was made with regard to their priority in developing the economic complex of the member states, which are to be implemented in the first instance. A schedule was adopted for preparing documents on implementing the treaty on establishing a single economic space for the three Central Asian states for 1995.

The heads of government of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan signed an agreement on cooperation and mutual action in the field of earthquake investigation and predicting seismic danger. Measures and principles for implementing the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the sphere of the pharmaceutical industry and health care were also discussed. At the proposal of Uzbekistan, a practical scientific conference on the problems of the methodology of predicting and compiling statistics on priority trends in the development of the national economies is to be held in Tashkent.

Reports from the leadership of the executive committee of the intergovernmental council of member states and the Central Asian Bank for Cooperation and Development were heard at the meeting of the council.

President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan received the heads of the governments of the Central Asian states.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 25 Apr

LD2504055495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0538 GMT 25 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an interview with Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, who points out that "an official start to the election campaign will be given by an appropriate presidential decree. Everything that is being done prior to that is not of official nature, except the actions of the commission, which already now quite officially prepares for the elections. The earlier preparations begin, the more chances that the election campaign will go off without complications".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI reports that inflation rate in April may be 7-8 percent, which is a marked achievement compared with the 24-percent inflation at the beginning of the year.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI writes that the debts of the state grew within the first quarter of the current year by one percent, and wage arrears amounted to 5,600,000 million roubles.

TRUD runs an interview with Maritime Territory Governor Yevgheny Nazdratenko who is strongly critical of Russian Govenment plans to cede part of the country's territory to the Chinese.

"We have already given away Damanskiy Island," Nazdratenko said. "Several other islands and the Bering Sea shelf, which afford oil, were handed over to the Americans under a Gorbachev-Shevardnadze secret arrangement. Is this the kind of diplomacy we need?

"Suggestions are now being made to shift the border posts, leaving abroad the graves of Soviet soldiers who gave their lives in fighting for Lake Hasan. And this is being suggested on the eve of the 60th anniversary of those events. As long as I remain governor, I shall not cede a single meter of our land. I serve Russia and its interests. In this I am supported not only by people in the Far East".

TRUD carries an interview with Ho Huang Ngiyem, the ambassador of Vietnam to the Russian Federation, who said that "to strengthen friendship and cooperation with Russia is a priority in Vietnam's foreign policy."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that "contrary to widely circulated reports, Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army has not yet tendered his resignation but he will do so if he receives a directive from Moscow on the disbandment of the army board. Such a directive, according to data available with him, is to come in later this week."

IZVESTIYA runs an article by State Duma Member Boris Fyodorov about the Communist Party headed by Gennadiy Zyuganov. "This Communist Party resembles reminds me of the MMM pyramid fund with which the communists have always been on sucha friendly terms that they continue to shield fraudster (Serhei) Mavrodi from trial. They play on the sentiments of the population, on the people's failure to understand the simple facts: those who are in power in Russia are far from being democrats and what they do cannot be called reforms.

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But this house of cards is shaky because it is based not on ideology and a vision of the future but on pining for state-provided cottages and elite food shops".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries in article headlined "one cannot grow rich in this way", emphasising that Russia while purchasing grain at world prices, sells the domestically produced one at one third of world prices.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries an interview with Chechen mufti Magomed Bo-Shir who dwells on the future of Chechnya. "Chechnya cannot become and it is not ready to become a purely Moslem state. What is needed is the combining of secular power with the influence of the clergy".

The future of Chechnya, the mufti emphasises, is only in alliance with Russia. Such a small republic cannot exist in a sovereign way and will not be able to rehabilitate what has been disrupted over the years of the Dudayev regime".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries in article by Fyodor Rtishchev, an officer, who attended the congress of the "Rutskoy Party" "it seems the (Aleksandr) Rutskoy still assumes the possibility of elections and counts on his win," Rtishchev writes.

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Kozyrev Hopes Clinton-Yeltsin Meeting Will Strengthen Ties

LD2404203595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1915 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Berezhkov and Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 24 Apr—"I hope that the forthcoming meeting between the Russian and U.S. Presidents in Moscow will give a new impetus to the relations of partnership and this will be reaffirmed at a summit in Halifax." Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated this today at a meeting with representatives of American business circles and the public, organized by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

A visit by President Bill Clinton to Russia, the Russian minister said, is of double importance to our states. "Half a century ago our countries gained a joint victory over Nazism," he noted. "Soon we will be celebrating this anniversary against the background of another historical event—the victory over the postwar confrontation and the 'Cold War'".

The minister said that Russian-American partnership is being transformed from idea into reality. "We have managed to resolve the problems which only four years ago seemed insoluble," Andrey Kozyrev said. "We have concluded an agreement on unprecedented arms reductions. Our nuclear missiles are not targeted at each other. The interests of Russia and the United States coincide in essence—we are equally devoted to the values of democracy and freedom."

However, the minister said, it is much more difficult to transform these coinciding interests into practical interaction for solving problems which are arising literally daily in this complex and unpredictable post-confrontational world. "Now as never before we feel we have not got enough experience with regard to partnership," Andrey Kozyrev said. "It is very difficult to balance the interests which naturally do not always coincide in everything, especially if huge countries such as Russia and the United States are involved."

Chubays, Vice President Gore Have 'Lively' Discussion

LD2504053295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0245 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 25 Apr—Anatoliy Chubays, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, arrived in Washington on 24 April to attend the spring session of the ruling bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. On the same day he had a meeting with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore.

"In my view, we have had a very lively and interesting discussion," A. Chubays told the ITAR-TASS correspondent. "It was scheduled to last 30 minutes, but in fact, lasted over an hour. Mr. Gore proved himself to be a serious expert on Russia. He has quite profound understanding of the peculiarities of the political and economic situation in our country. We stressed that all the talk about any postponement or cancellation of parliamentary and presidential elections is, from the point of view of the Russian Federation Government, totally absurd. Just a few days ago former Russian Ambassador in the United States Vladimir Lukin made a statement in which he claimed that the authorities intended to cancel the elections. This is very far from the truth, and furthermore, in the near future, the government is to make an official announcement about the active part it is going to play in the preparation and holding [of elections]."

"In addition, we discussed with the Vice President the critical aspects of our economic relations," Chubays continued. "Mr. Gore expressed anxiety over some taxes extended to foreign investors, including taxing the above-norm wages. For our part, we spoke of the fact that the stand taken by some U.S. Congressmen, who advocate cutting technical aid to Russia, could have a serious effect on protection of private investment in the country. All in all, beside general political discussions, we also discussed down-to-earth issues of U.S.-Russian relations."

Kozyrev Expresses Condolences for Oklahoma Attack

LD2504085395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2134 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Berezhkov and Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 24 Apr—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has expressed his condolences to the American people in connection with the tragedy in Oklahoma.

"The first thing that I noticed when I came down the steps of the airplane was that the U.S. flags were flying at half-mast in mourning for those who died as a result of the act of terrorism in Oklahoma." The Russian foreign minister said this on 24 April at a news conference in New York, where he arrived to attend the conference of signatories of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"I would like to use this first meeting with American journalists to express my profound feeling of grief for the families and friends of the dead and for the American people in connection with the tragedy in Oklahoma. This crime is yet further evidence of the gravity of the threat that terrorism poses in the modern world. This is a universal phenomenon that affects us all. We run into the same phenomenon in Russia too. It is something beyond explanation from the point of view of the civilized person."

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Aftermath of Oklahoma City Blast Exmained

MM2504085495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 7

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "The Repercussions Will Be Greater Than the Explosion. The First Oklahoma Bomb Suspects Already Arrested"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—For some reason all America was stunned that there had been an explosion in Oklahoma City. Not in New York, not in Washington, and last but not least not in Los Angeles. Who but malicious foreign forces could have had anything to do with the remote, respectable U.S. heartland?

The version involving "Near East nationals" sounded fairly convincing despite President Clinton's warnings. Did he know about the major suspects when he came out onto the White House lawn with the Brazilian president? This was his second address to the nation in connection with the terrible disaster in Oklahoma. And the President did not say a few chance words but gave a strong, cogent speech that had very apparently been prepared in advance regarding the futility of haste, saying that it was not a religion or a nation that did the killing, but the killers.

By that time Timothy McVeigh was already in jail. Temporarily. Pending payment of bail. This Timothy—a White Anglo-Saxon Protestant and veteran of the well-known Gulf War—had committed two offenses. One serious, the other not so serious.

His serious offense was to break the speed limit by a whole 20 mph.

The less serious crime was that he was carrying a loaded pistol. Not just a pistol—that is no offense. Only it must not be loaded.

He had parked a pickup outside the federal center building in Oklahoma City loaded with sulfate of ammonia fertilizer, which vies in terms of destructive force with TNT and ammonal. The explosion of this pickup, hired on false papers, left a crater in the city center three meters or so deep, the nine-story building looking as though a Hollywood dragon had taken a bite out of the facade, 81 people dead, and 400 injured.

The count is still rising. The building may collapse. Some of the injured may die. Among the 140 people missing there will probably be people pronounced dead as the rescue work continues.

And the most tragic death toll—that of the children—will almost certainly rise. Right now 12 babies have left this terrifying inhospitable world. Another 30 are missing. Are any of them alive?

Their mothers and fathers are hoping and praying.

On Sunday [23 April], after planting a dogwood in memory of the dead, the President and the First Lady set off for Oklahoma. At a memorial service where all the main faiths were represented the president spoke of "dark forces." There was no longer any doubt that it was not Libya's al-Qadhdhafi or Tehran's ayatollahs that were meant.

So far four people have been arrested. The first was Timothy McVeigh, but he only lost his freedom for a few minutes. The judge sentenced him to bail of $500—for breaking the speed limit and carrying a revolver. But then something stirred in the cop, Charlie Hanger, who had arrested McVeigh. He compared the pictures of the suspects sent out by the FBI with the man whom he was holding and thought: Heck, it's him!

The 26-year old McVeigh was taken off in handcuffs and leg irons by special helicopter to an Oklahoma jail quite near where he had left his deadly vehicle. He is threatened with the death penalty. But that is later, after a trial. Right now his lawyer has demanded that the trial be transferred from Oklahoma elsewhere: The atmosphere here is too charged, it is impossible to work.

McVeigh's friends were arrested after him: the brothers James and Terry Nichols. Then David Iniguez from San Bernardino, California. Another suspect, one of the main ones, described as "dark-haired and with a tattoo on his left arm," is on the run. And it seems that he too is being hunted down.

But a great deal became clear even before they were caught. All these people belong to extreme right-wing paramilitary organizations. One of these associations calls itself the Michigan Civil Militia. It comprises 10,000 people. White Protestants, primarily Anglo-Saxons. They despise immigrants. They hate Clinton. They have shooting practice every week not like the guys who were sent to Chechnya after firing off three dummy rounds. They encourage one another with talk of how to get at the vermin in the White House.

These people come from the same stock as the majority that ensured the Republicans' landslide victory in the recent Congressional elections. They are an extreme manifestation of the new conservatism in America.

Although the Near East trail, with which specialists in customary Asian terror toyed for a long time, proved false, the recriminations lodged by a number of Muslim critics are not entirely fair. Of course, during the initial aftermath many Americans fell prey to cliches. Needless to say, oblique glances toward the mosques and yelling about Muslim women (it is easier to determine religion from women's clothing than from men's) did not immediately give way to apologies.

However it is clear that analysis of the Oklahoma drama is only just beginning. During the memorial service the President clearly spoke about "dark forces" for a purpose. He set out an anti-terrorism program. The program comprises four points—the adoption of new legislation to combat terrorism, reinforcements for law-enforcement organs, new directives for the FBI and the

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Justice Department, and the construction of a new federal building in Oklahoma City and aid for the victims.

Nonetheless America's disgust for the monstrous brutality shown by its young men, raised in its schools, trained in its army, and crammed full of their patriotic ideas to the point of hysteria—all this has already begun to be the subject of heated discussion—and will be comprehensively analyzed for a long time to come.

How long? At least until the presidential elections.

Last Sunday you could see that stickers proclaiming "Clinton for President" have appeared on automobile fenders earlier than usual and with greater frequency than usual. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich—the informal head of the Republicans and the new strong man of America—also spoke on Sunday. His "contract with America" also enshrined an accord with the powerful National Rifle Association. This association, which defends the right to freely acquire all firearms and which is responsible for the immortal maxim "Guns Don't Kill—People Do" is idolized by the paramimilitary militias, which voted in concert for the Republicans.

How many people are there in these militias? America seems to have been stunned when it looked into this matter in depth.

The Michigan militia, to which Timothy McVeigh seems to have belonged body and soul, comprises 10,000 people. There are no intellectuals, colored people, or rich people here. Just Anglo-Saxons, who firmly intend to defend the U.S. Constitution against the scoundrels in Washington who collect taxes and prohibit a normal person from buying a normal machinegun for his own personal needs. These are people with firm Christian beliefs and strong muscles, generally with an army background.

One of the leaders of the militia condemned the explosion in Oklahoma City and said that he is afraid of being arrested.

Another said that he is afraid of harsh government attacks which may lead to civil war.

The militia in the state of Florida is reported to be even more numerous than that in Michigan.

Wearing camouflage gear and armed with automatic rifles, which unlike heavy-caliber machineguns are not banned from being sold by even the latest legislation, they meet once a week for training and to brainwash one another.

The polite army veteran Timothy McVeigh, who seemed outwardly calm and answered all questions with a clear "That's right" or "No way," celebrated his 27th birthday last Sunday in an Oklahoma jail. If he is sentenced to death, which is more than likely, his picture will be a sacrificial image on the altar of right-wing extremism. They are now striving to blame the tyrannical government in Washington for the innocent victims of the Oklahoma explosion.

Among the directives that Clinton will hand to the FBI and the Justice Department will be instructions to step up surveillance of such organizations.

In Oklahoma City the President and First Lady met with those who are carrying on the rescue work in the devastated building. He did not go to the place where digging is under way. Although the building may be about to collapse, no one accused him of being overly cautious. Clinton said that he does not want to impede the rescuers by turning up nor does he want to tear them away for a second from their work, and this explanation was generally believed.

Further on Post-Blast Investigations

MM2504024995 Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by Vissarion Sisnev under the rubric "We Report the Details": "After the Explosion in Oklahoma City"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington—The first Sunday after Easter in America was a national day of mourning. Memorial services were held in churches of all faiths. President Clinton and the First Lady prayed together with parishioners at a church in Oklahoma City. This was the head of state's second visit in the past few days to a city where people used to joke that "nothing ever happens" and which has become the scene of the most evil terrorist act in the history of the United States. [passage omitted]

The evidence of people who know McVeigh personally gives the picture of a man who not only holds extreme political views but is also mentally unstable. One witness said that McVeigh was worried that he had been affected by experiments with toxic agents allegedly carried out by the U.S. Army in Kuwait. According to another witness, Timothy was sure that he would be kept under surveillance and that to that end an electronic sensor had been implanted in his buttocks. Be that as it may, while his farmer friends are currently being regarded as "star witnesses," McVeigh himself has been charged with sabotage. Admittedly, like McVeigh the "witnesses" have been taken away in handcuffs and leg irons.

The investigation services have launched a frenzy of activity aware that all of America is now watching them. Someone was arrested in California but subsequently released, like the man of Jordanian origin who flew out of Oklahoma City on the day of the explosion and was sent back from London. Several farms in neighboring states are being searched. According to a correspondent from the ARIZONA REPUBLIC, the FBI has even made a three-man parachute drop in the Arizona boondocks. But the only link with reality comes from the line provided by Timothy McVeigh who virtually landed in

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the detectives' laps. That is why the Attorney General is thanking her subordinates for their selfless work while the press, reflecting its readers' irritation, hints that the powerful investigation apparatus achieves results most often due to coincidence. They recall, for example, that Ted Bundy, who murdered 35 women, was caught solely because he was driving a stolen car at night without lights on. And the conclusion is being drawn that attention should have been focused long ago on right-wing armed groupings such as the Arizona Patriots and the Michigan Militia, which represent a more serious terrorist threat than any foreign organizations.

In conclusion I would like to reassure my fellow countrymen who have some connection with the group of Russian figure skaters who are in Oklahoma City on a private invitation, that is, who are here earning money on the side. They booked into a hotel opposite the federal building which had also been damaged by the explosion: The windows there were shattered just as they were in all the buildings in the neighborhood. The six Russians received cuts of varying degrees of seriousness but their lives were not endangered. They received medical aid and everything ended fairly happily.

Bonner Addresses Clinton on Chechnya

954F2140A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 16, 19 Apr 95 p 2

[Open letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton from Yelena Bonner]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Dear Mr. President!**

The war in Chechnya, proclaimed by Russia as a restoration of constitutional order, has been going on for four months.

Over this time the war has turned into genocide of the Chechen people. Two hundred forty-five population centers have been subjected to aerial bombing and artillery bombardments; 187 of them have been practically obliterated, including the capital of Chechnya, Groznyy, a city with a population of a half-million. More than 42,000 civilians have been killed. The total number of wounded is unknown. But 2,000 children have been maimed. Some 2,500 have been orphaned. There are public organizations in Great Britain and the United States willing to take some of these children into temporary care. But the Russian authorities will not give them permission to leave the country. The MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the military command are hampering the delivery of humanitarian aid to Chechnya and Red Cross operations.

On 8 and 9 April the village of Samashki was destroyed and hundreds of inhabitants killed. (Footnote: Different sources name different figures—ed.). During World War II Stalin's gang tried to convince the world that Polish officers in Katyn had been executed by the Germans. Today the Russian military command and security organs falsely maintain that this crime against humanity was committed by Chechens themselves.

You are coming to Russia for the celebration of the 50-year victory anniversary. This gives you the right to insist that Russia stop military operations and immediately begin negotiations with General Dudayev under the auspices of the United Nations, the OSCE, or your administration. Such an initiative would provide moral justification for your being in Moscow on 9 May and would reaffirm the United States' adherence to protection of human rights. It would bring you the undying gratitude of the Chechen people and thousands of Russian mothers, whose sons—the children and grandchildren of those who won World War II—continue to die in this completely unjustified bloody meat grinder.

[Signed] **Yelena Bonner, World War II veteran, Soviet Army medical service lieutenant 1941-1945.**

Draft Congressional Resolution on Kaliningrad Criticized

MM1904131795 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Sergey Balyutskiy: "Why U.S. Congress Played Kaliningrad Card"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vilnius—I have in front of me the text of a draft resolution put before the U.S. House of Representatives. Its author is Republican Congressman Christopher Cox. The initiative for it came from the Baltic freedom league. The draft concerns Kaliningrad Oblast. I think that readers would be interested to familiarize themselves with the complete text. It states:

"Reflecting the Congressional directive on the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Kaliningrad....

"and whereas, as a result of the Cold War, the peace treaty with Germany remained unsigned until 1990, when it waived its claim to the Koenigsberg region, people do not want the country's sovereignty transferred to any other party....

"Whereas from 1945 to the time of its collapse the Soviet Union destroyed historic places in the Koenigsberg region, renamed the region Kaliningrad, did substantial environmental damage, and turned it into a military base where 200,000 servicemen are based within an area of 15,100 square kilometers....

"Whereas the existence of the Kaliningrad military base poses a threat to the peace and security of the Baltic region and of Europe—particularly Lithuania, which feels in danger between Kaliningrad and Belarus....

"The House of Representatives (with the support of the Senate) believes that:

"1. The Kaliningrad Koenigsberg region should be turned into a demilitarized zone, and the Russian Federation should withdraw its Armed Forces.

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"2. The Russian Federation should transfer administration of Kaliningrad Koenigsberg region to the international authorities.

"3. The appropriate international and regional agencies should be instructed to...restore the integrity of the region and its environs."

Obviously, any Russian reader would be able to draw his own conclusions. There is no doubt about the unprecedented familiarity and aggression of the resolution. Yuriy Voyevoda, deputy chairman of the Committee for CIS Affairs and Relations with Kaliningrad Oblast Countrymen, said in this connection:

"We have long followed the attempts by certain foreign circles to play the Kaliningrad card from time to time. It is even being suggested that a condominium be introduced to run this Russian oblast. But the reformer gentlemen should not forget that the Potsdam Agreements, under which the region was transferred to Russia, are documents which cannot be interpreted arbitrarily to suit the political situation or the ambitions of certain politicians. Moreover, such attempts to 'play on our nerves' are not in the interests of the Russian or American peoples—much less on the eve of our common holiday—Victory Day...."

Fortunately, the position of a single congressman or even a group of them is not the same as the position taken by Congress as a whole. Much less the position of ordinary Americans. And that, in my view, is best demonstrated by U.S. President Clinton, who has decided to celebrate Victory Day with us in Moscow.

Killing of Korean-American Missionary May Be 'Ethnic'-Based

MM2504105095 Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Igor Krasikov: "Who Killed The U.S. Citizens?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Khabarovsk—U.S. citizens Yi Chu-hong, doctor and Baptist Church missionary, and his wife have been found murdered in the kray center of Khabarovsk Kray. Experts ascertained that the women had been suffocated. The doctor had died as a result of a craniocerebral injury.

The couple had lived in the Russian Far East for around 18 months. Missionary Chu Khon Yi was a specialist in the sphere of medicine, was conducting a cycle of free lectures for students at the local medical institute, was practicing in a city clinic, and helped arrange a visit to Khabarovsk by a group of his colleagues from the United States. He even helped the city acquire valuable medical equipment. He was certainly popular with the local populace.

According to specialists, there was absolutely no motive for the killing. They rejected the suggestion that it was local gangsters or racketeers out to make money: In the apartment rented by the couple the killers had not touched any valuable objects or currency which was lying around in full view. The kray investigators are also working on the theory that there was a religious motive for the crime, although such a motive is unlikely—Chu Khon Yi was well known for his tolerance and his ability to be conciliatory in religious arguments.

But local commentators do not rule out the possibility of a purely ethnic motive. Hundreds of DPRK citizens have been "permanent residents" in the kray for many years, engaged in forestry in one of its regions. Taking advantage of the lax control on the part of the local authorities and the connivance of their own leaders, they are virtually free to roam the entire territory of the kray, visiting the kray center, of course. Many of them are extremely blunt in their views about all things "nonsocialist," and, in particular, "pro-American." The doctor and missionary, Korean-born, but with a U.S. passport, was bound to be a source of irritation to "compatriots" of this kind. It would have been no problem for any of them to meet with him and "visit" him with murder in mind (the locks of the missionary's apartment were not broken).

The supporters of this theory also cite the epidemic of crime in the Far East perpetrated by foreigners. Last year, for example, more than 150 crimes committed by foreign subjects (mainly PRC and DPRK citizens) were recorded on the territory of Khabarovsk Kray. They have been murdering their own compatriots as well. In most cases there is a mercenary motive—robbery, gain—but there have also been instances of personal revenge, enmity, or mere drunkenness.

However, the tragedy of the U.S. couple is yet another link in the chain of reasons for the reduction in the number of visits to the region by major specialists and entrepreneurs from abroad. According to data supplied by passport and visa services in the Amur area, there are signs that Western business people are leaving the territory of the Far East in large numbers. And not only because of our economic instability. The principal reason, many people believe, is the crime wave, which means foreign subjects have no guarantee of safety on Russian soil.

Kozyrev on Zhirinovskiy, U.S. Citizen Lost in Chechnya

LD2504092495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2303 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Berezhkov and Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 24 Apr—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev expressed his concern over the growth of ultranationalism and neofascism in various parts of the world.

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Speaking at a news conference on Monday [24 April] in New York, he said that this phenomenon had to be fought firmly and decisively. "It is for this very reason that I went to court in connection with the suit brought against me by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy," A. Kozyrev said. "In my opinion, it is not up to the courts to decide what fascism is. My aim was to defend my right to call fascism by its name." The very fact that Zhirinovskiy started this court action, the minister believes, is an excellent illustration of the fascist nature of his ideology. The regimes of Mussolini and Hitler began with trials like this.

Zhirinovskiy now wants me to pay for having told the truth about his ideology, A. Kozyrev said. I went to court and gave my point of view, and I am ready to defend it. My best advocate in this affair is my conscience, he stressed.

Kozyrev said that a presidential edict on the threat of neofascism is now being drafted in Russia in so far as the legislative base in this area is inadequate, and fascists in a democratic society have the opportunity to use the state system to fight their opponents.

Asked by journalists about the fate of an American citizen who has disappeared in Chechnya, the minister assured the news conference that a joint search was mounted by the military, the security service, and diplomats and everything possible will be done to find any trace of him.

UN's Petrovskiy on NPT Extension Conference

MM1904130295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview in Geneva with UN Deputy Secretary General Vladimir Petrovskiy by Igor Sedykh; date not given: "Nonproliferation Treaty News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva—A conference to examine the operation and extension of the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) opened in New York 17 April. The main issue facing its participants is whether the treaty will be extended unconditionally and whether that extension will be open-ended or for some defined period. What is the importance of the treaty and what is the essence of the dispute over it? UN Deputy Secretary General Vladimir Petrovskiy answered these questions in Geneva.

[Sedykh] What is the UN position on the question of extending the NPT?

[Petrovskiy] It is unambiguous. The UN secretary general advocates the open-ended and unconditional extension of the treaty. First, the treaty is important in its own right—since in its 25 years of existence it has reliably prevented the spread of nuclear weapons. I recall that, when it was signed, the most optimistic predictions were that there would be 25-30 nuclear states in 25 years' time. In actual fact the "nuclear club" has the same members now as it did then.

Moreover, it is sometimes not taken into account that the treaty forms as it were the heart of the nuclear nonproliferation regime. A system of monitoring of nuclear exports has taken shape around it (the so called agreement of the "London Club" participants); there is a definite system of guarantees that nuclear materials will not be used for military purposes. This system is implemented by the International Atomic Energy Agency; there is an agreement on the physical protection of shipments of nuclear material; and, finally, the nuclear-free zones in the South Pacific (the Rarotonga agreement) and in Latin America (the Tlatelolco agreement) are part of the system, along with the oceans, the moon, and space.

We in the UN General Secretariat believe that there are now certain favorable prerequisites for states to unambiguously come out in favor of the unconditional and open-ended extension of the treaty. First, with the end of the cold war the nuclear arms race has ended and the nuclear disarmament process has begun—particularly as regards Russia and the United States. It is very important that recently the Security Council for the first time formulated security guarantees for nonnuclear countries in a single global collective document.

[Sedykh] Nonetheless, during the discussion of this document at the Security Council a number of countries—mainly nonaligned states—were critical of the nuclear powers' April statement and voiced certain doubts about the NPT.

[Petrovskiy] The nonnuclear states are definitely satisfied with the way in which the guarantees have been formulated. And, second, they want to be sure that they can have full access to the peaceful use of nuclear power. I think that all these issues will be brought up during the conference, but a solution to them can be found without doing any harm to the extension of the NPT.

[Sedykh] But the nonaligned countries, and China as well, believe that the recent Security Council resolution is inadequate, since the five nuclear powers are permanent members and therefore have the right of veto. Consequently, the demand is being made that we should not restrict ourselves to a Security Council resolution but that we should conclude a global treaty that would fully safeguard the nonnuclear states' security in law. What is your opinion about this?

Probably, if we look at things from a strictly legal standpoint, Security Council resolutions naturally have a different status. If one of these countries were affected, a situation would arise in which it would be impossible to use the veto, since that would mean breaking their commitments. This would disrupt the entire system of agreements. You remove one link and the entire chain collapses.

[Sedykh] Does this mean that, in your view, there is no need to conclude a global treaty which would become an element of international law?

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[Petrovskiy] But there already is a definite system of measures. These include not only the NPT Treaty, but the nonproliferation regime as well. Consequently, this entire system of measures makes it possible to react in good time to any situation. Of course, it is possible to improve it. But even in its present form the nonproliferation regime is a guarantee against the spread of nuclear weapons, and there is no need for any reorganization or reform of it.

For their part the nonaligned countries want security guarantees to be provided within a legally binding, treaty framework and, second, they want all the nuclear powers to draw up a single formula for the guarantees. But now, although there has been a Security Council resolution, four nuclear powers are adopting an absolutely identical position on guarantees to nonnuclear countries, while the fifth power—China—has formulated its guarantees differently and pledged itself to no-first-use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. Nonetheless, I believe that the Security Council resolution now constitutes considerable progress, and I see no reason at this stage to complicate the entire negotiating process with additional demands.

[Sedykh] Do you think that the differences that have emerged might call into question the extension of the NPT?

[Petrovskiy] It is not a question of that. All the participants have already pledged to extend the treaty. The conference is meeting to decide for how long it should be extended. It is just that certain countries are trying to exploit these differences in order to limit the extension to 25 years. But the nuclear powers are advocating that the accords be open-ended.

[Sedykh] Washington has stated that it will not sign the treaty if it is not open-ended. Will it not be the case that the hard-line positions of both sides could nonetheless wreck the reaching of agreement?

[Sedykh] My experience suggests that, despite all the difficulties, agreement will be reached. Of course, it would be good to achieve consensus. If this is not achieved, everything will be decided by a vote. But most states still favor an open-ended solution. Nonetheless, I have reason to believe that everything will be shaken up. There will be major friction and major disputes. But the stakes are too high, and we cannot fail to take account of the fact that public opinion worldwide supports the treaty.

As soon as the foreign ministers arrive, commissions will start work on each article. And a final decision will be made later.

[Sedykh] Immediately after 9 May? Will the decisions in New York be linked to the work at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva?

[Petrovskiy] Not formally, because the Disarmament Conference does not deal with nonproliferation matters. But, of course, everything taking place in Geneva will have an immediate impact on the state of affairs at the New York nonproliferation conference. And that is not surprising. After all, a treaty on the prohibition of nuclear testing is being drawn up in Geneva. Although slow, there has been some progress—we already have a "transitional text." There are still some parentheses in it, but a lot of them have already been removed. Moreover, it is very important that the most important decision be made to draw up a treaty here in Geneva to end the production of fissionable materials. In other words, the signals from Geneva are positive. And that too creates a favorable backdrop for the talks to extend the NPT.

Kozyrev Calls for Unconditional NPT Extension

LD2404222095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2121 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Boris Sitnikov and Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 25 Apr—"Russia is firmly in favor of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] being extended indefinitely and unconditionally. We now have a historic opportunity and to let it pass would be unforgiveable," Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in an address on Monday to those taking part in the conference of NPT member states which is taking place here.

"To refuse to extend it would mean the destruction of the basis of international stability. In a world where we only recently succeeded in changing the logic of the nuclear weapons race, this would be a backward step. On the other hand, to make the treaty permanent and forward-looking would mean providing guarantees about the growth of all that is positive in the NPT," A. Kozyrev noted.

He stressed that the indefinite extension of the NPT "is not an indefinite mandate for the nuclear states to possess their nuclear arsenals indefinitely, but represents the prospect of a gradual movement toward a world free from nuclear weapons."

"Let us assume that resolving the issue of extending it should be the open and clear desire of the member states. We are in favor of this decision being made on the basis of common accord. However, if we do not succeed in adopting it by consensus, despite all the objective prerequisites for this being there, then we will have to hold a ballot on this. But it must be open," A. Kozyrev stated.

Kozyrev Tells NPT Conference Arms Race 'Reversed'

LD2404224195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2126 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Boris Sitnikov and Viktor Khrekov]

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[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 25 April—"The nuclear arms race has been halted and reversed. This is an indisputable fact." Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev gave this unambiguous response on Monday to skeptics at the conference of NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] participant states who were saying that the nuclear states were not fulfilling their pledges on nuclear disarmament.

"By the middle of 1991 Russia and the United States had eliminated a whole class of nuclear weapons—more than 2,500 medium- and short-range nuclear missiles. The START-1 treaty came into force in December last year, almost halving the two major nuclear arsenals. Ratification of the START-2 treaty comes next, by which Russia and the United States will reduce their strategic offensive weapons by two thirds. And the presidents of Russia and the United States have agreed to embark upon decommissioning all strategic carriers that are subject to reduction as soon as the treaty comes into force," A. Kozyrev said.

He noted that this is not the limit, of course. "The leaders of both countries are proceeding from the need for the remaining nuclear forces to be further reduced and restricted. After the START-2 treaty had been ratified, they instructed their experts to speed up their consideration of possible reductions," the minister noted. He described accords on the mutual non-targeting of strategic nuclear weapons—concluded between Russia and the United States, China, and the United Kingdom—as "an important step towards strengthening strategic stability and trust." "Our strategic nuclear weapons are targeted against no one at present," the Russian minister stressed.

A. Kozyrev welcomed Ukraine's, Belarus', and Kazakhstan's decisions to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as non-nuclear states. "We welcome the wisdom of our friends and CIS partners. In its turn, this has consolidated the treaty and the reliability of the international norm of nonproliferation," he stressed.

'Universal' Treaty Said 'Within Reach'

LD2404230295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2132 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Boris Sitnikov, Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 25 Apr—"Russia faithfully pursues the final goal of a complete elimination of nuclear arms. Russia proposes to move toward this goal together with all nuclear states, naturally with the specific features of respective nuclear potentials and possibly with a certain asymmetry of obligations having been taken into account. This could be effected within the framework of a treaty on nuclear security and strategic stability, proposed by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the United Nations in the autumn last year." This initiative was put forward by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, when he addressed a conference of the Nonproliferation Treaty signatory states.

The Russian minister highly assessed the fact that on the eve of the opening of the conference on the NPT, the United States, Great Britain, and France aligned themselves with Russia and the four nuclear superpowers came forward with a statement in Geneva, in which they solemnly confirmed [their] obligation to hold talks on effective measures in the nuclear disarmament sphere in a spirit of goodwill.

"Banning nuclear tests forever is among major landmarks on the path to nuclear disarmament. Relevant multilateral talks have already started Geneva. An indefinite and universal treaty, over which effective international control can be exercised, is within reach. Russia is in favor of signing it already this year. It [Russia] continues to observe its moratorium on nuclear tests, which has been extended on more than one occasion," Andrey Kozyrev stated. He expressed the conviction that a universal test ban treaty will strengthen the nonproliferation of nuclear arms even more. "It is, however, impossible not to see another aspect: a complete ban on nuclear testing, which, in effect, implies that qualitative improvements to nuclear arms have been renounced, is realistic only if the NPT is in force," the minister emphasized.

It was noted at the same time that while favoring "a progressive and irreversible nature of the nuclear disarmament process," Russia at the same time remained realistic, aware that it is not possible to get rid of nuclear weapons overnight. "The elimination of the nuclear arsenals which have been inherited is a costly process. It requires that major technical and financial tasks are resolved," A. Kozyrev said.

More on Kozyrev Copenhagen Speech

MM2504094195 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Not Against Russia, Not Without It, But With It. Andrey Kozyrev's Copenhagen Speech"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's speech at a Trilateral Commission session in Copenhagen was full of extremely important provisions concerning Russia. But first a few words about the commission itself. It is an international nongovernmental organization which brings together over 300 politicians, economists, bankers, and industrialists from the United States, West Europe, and Japan.

Kozyrev's main thesis was the modern understanding of the problem of partnership. It implies the creation of an international strategy not against Russia (the Cold War times are a thing of the past) and not without Russia (which is sometimes being attempted at the moment),

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but with Russia. Something is being done in this direction by the G-7, for example, which has turned into the G-8, beginning with the political sphere. On the eve of the meeting in Halifax Russia is becoming increasingly closely involved in the discussion of global economic problems.

Kozyrev noted that this approach is unfortunately not being shown in all things or all the time, and that it is being supplanted by a double standard method: Western partners urge us to make concessions on various international questions out of consideration for the opinion of the parliament or public in a particular country, but when Russian reformers have the same problem it is more often than not ignored.

The minister also broached certain other questions. He stressed that there are differences between promises and real resources in the matter of the West's rendering of aid to the reforms in our country. There has been far more talk of aid than aid itself. He observed again that when Russian citizens' lives are threatened we can use the entire arsenal of means at our disposal to save them. He described the question of enlarging NATO as an attempt to solve the problems of postconfrontational Europe by the old stereotyped methods and called for a more or less prolonged partnership between Russia and NATO.

Kozyrev 'Prepared To Discuss' Supply of Reactors to Iran

LD2404222695 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 2030 GMT 24 Apr 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is taking part in the UN conference on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Right now he is speaking about Russia's position at the session.

Yesterday in an interview with our correspondent the foreign minister made it clear that Russia is prepared to be flexible on the issue of supplying nuclear reactors to Iran, if, for its part, the United States meets half way with its similar reactors in North Korea.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] We are in favor of our light-water reactor being in both North Korea and Iran. [end recording]

[Correspondent Sergey Goryachev] The wishes of Russia and the United States at the conference coincide—to extend the treaty indefinitely, the Russian minister stresses. But for the time being there is no accord between them. Reactors are not popcorn. They cost big money and represent national interests.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] We are prepared to discuss the Iranian issue. Discuss, and not turn down an agreement in conditions when no one has yet explained to us or presented any single serious argument as to why we should turn it down. [end recording]

Reactor Deal With Iran Questioned

954F2112A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Aleksey Yablokov, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission of the Security Council of Russia for Environmental Safety: "All of Russia Will Have To Pay for Iran's Millions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 January 1995 Viktor Mikhaylov, minister of atomic energy, signed in Iran a protocol on the completion of the construction of the No. 1 unit of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in Southern Iran and assistance in the development of the uranium deposit and the supply from Russia to Iran of a 30-50 megawatt light-water reactor and also, "for research purposes," on the installation in Iran of other research reactors and on the construction of a uranium-enrichment centrifuge plant and on the training of Iranian atomic scientists in Russia. It is known that Russia will receive $800 million for this deal.

If we consider merely the financial aspect of the deal, we may agree with the Ministry of Atomic Energy when it speaks about the exceptional profitability of this deal for Russia and the need to transact it, notwithstanding all the misgivings of other countries (primarily the United States). Yes, the Iranian millions could in the short term serve as a gulp of oxygen for our increasingly frail atomic industry. But all of Russia will have to pay for this momentary happiness of the atomic scientists.

The agreement on the sale of atomic reactors to Iran was evidently not discussed at a meeting of the government and was adopted on an ad hoc basis. Had there been such a discussion, the following questions would inevitably have arisen.

Why is Iran, which possesses practically unlimited energy resources, spending gigantic amounts on the development of a nuclear industry (Iran is in third place in the world in terms of oil reserves and second place in terms of gas reserves)?

Does Iran have a secret trade agreement with Pakistan, in accordance with which it has already obtained or is to obtain the technology and equipment for the enrichment of uranium?

Does Iran have (or has it had) secret agreements on cooperation in the sphere of nuclear problems with North Korea and/or any other countries (Lebanon [as published], Algeria, France, the FRG, Argentina, South Africa)?

What deals or agreements pertaining to nuclear problems were concluded and realized between China and Iran prior to 1992 (when the PRC signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and limited, at least formally, its nuclear cooperation, which prior to this had not been monitored even formally by the IAEA)?

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How many Iranian specialists are undergoing and have already undergone training in physical-engineering higher educational institutions of countries possessing nuclear technology?

Did Iran in 1991 attempt following the disintegration of the USSR to offer employment to former Soviet atomic scientists?

What is known about Iran's attempts at the exportation from CIS countries of a number of components necessary for the production of an atomic bomb and delivery systems?

Finally, is it true that back in the 1970's, in the period of the shah's rule, a secret plan for Iran's nuclear armament, which was subsequently converted into a plan for the creation of an "Islamic atomic bomb," was drafted and adopted (Ayatollah Mohajerani, vice president of Iran, declared in October 1991: "Inasmuch as the enemy (Israel—A.Ya.) has nuclear devices, Muslim countries must have the same potential").

These questions have been raised at various times and in various forms by the international community. There have as yet been no answers to them that might have removed the concern in the world in connection with the possible plans for Iran's nuclear armament. Nor is there an answer to these questions in the public text of the report of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia devoted to the state of affairs concerning the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In the opinion of many specialists, Iran is among the "threshold" countries, that is, the countries that have adopted a decision in principle on nuclear armament and are trying to create for this the corresponding research and production base. This is the opinion not only of the vast majority of overseas analysts but also, evidently, the opinion of the analytical centers of the Ministry of Defense of Russia: "...countries of a nonadvertising 'nuclear club' are creating quite a tight semicircle encompassing from the south the geostrategic space occupied by Russia and its closest neighbors, creating here an indeterminate 'nuclear danger' zone. Russia's policy of nuclear deterrence should today, therefore, correspond to this fact in full" (see P. Grachev, "The Military Doctrine and Security of Russia," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, 9 June 1994).

Leaving aside for some reason or other this manifestly threshold nature of Iran's nuclear policy, analysts of the Foreign Intelligence Service [SVR] of Russia maintain that the agreements that we have signed with Iran to build a nuclear power plant are absolutely innocuous: First, we will build reactors which cannot be used to produce "weapons-grade" uranium or plutonium and, second, by virtue of the fact that the agreements that have been concluded specify supervision by the International Atomic Energy Agency—the IAEA. Unfortunately, neither of these arguments can be regarded as being sufficiently serious.

First, there are no fundamental differences between "weapons-grade" and "non-weapons-grade" plutonium and uranium. Any reactor, a light-water reactor included, produces plutonium—one kilogram of the fuel spent in the reactor contains five or six grams of plutonium. The plutonium can be extracted from the spent nuclear fuel in a comparatively small radiochemical laboratory. I would mention that a nuclear power plant reactor is loaded with tens of tonnes of fuel, which after three years are usually completely replaced. Given a particular procedure of the loading and unloading, the quantity of plutonium could be increased thanks to the accelerated conversion of the initial uranium-235.

In the spent nuclear fuel of heavy-water and graphite reactors the content of plutonium-239 (the basic fissionable component of nuclear munitions) exceeds 90 percent, and in a typical light-water reactor, approximately 60 percent. But it was clear as of 1962 to specialists, and as of June 1994, following the declassification of these documents in the United States, to everyone, that plutonium with any content of the 239 isotope is strategically important and dangerous material. I refer to the celebrated American experiment using British "energy" plutonium to create a perfectly efficient atomic bomb. Such a bomb would be of somewhat greater dimensions and not so safe to handle. This is of no fundamental significance in nuclear policy. So plutonium suitable for the manufacture of nuclear weapons may be obtained at any nuclear power plant.

Nor is the argument concerning the efficiency of IAEA supervision of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons convincing. Speaking about the efficiency of the IAEA in the sphere of nonproliferation is to pass off black for white. Despite the so-called IAEA "control," nuclear weapons have been created in, at least, Israel, Pakistan, India, South Africa, and North Korea. It was not the IAEA but the United States that impeded the nuclear programs of South Korea and Taiwan. It was not the IAEA that terminated the nuclear armament programs of Argentina, Brazil, and Iraq. The IAEA is by nature incapable of halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons inasmuch as in terms of its status it is intrinsically contradictory.

According to its charter, the IAEA is called upon to disseminate nuclear technology, and the dissemination of any nuclear technology inevitably furthers the possibility of the creation of nuclear weapons. A brief example. The IAEA Charter still records a proposition concerning the need for the dissemination of the technology of underground nuclear explosions "for peaceful purposes"—technology without exception abandoned by all countries that at one time tried to apply it.

I would add that even if the nuclear power plants that we are building in Iran cannot be used to produce fissionable material suitable for the creation of an atomic bomb, merely the dissemination among Iranian specialists of technological knowledge in the sphere of nuclear

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processes and the handling of fissionable materials would represent for Iran a real breakthrough in the sphere of the creation of nuclear weapons. Is it to Russia's advantage to have a strong nuclear neighbor with a very unpredictable foreign policy in proximity to its southern borders?

What can and should be done in this situation?

Inasmuch as such foreign trade deals of the Ministry of Atomic Energy contain a potential threat to Russia's national security, the president and the government should establish a special procedure of their conclusion presupposing a preliminary scrupulous study of the possible political, social, and environmental consequences. The adoption of the final decision on such deals should be the prerogative of the president and should have the approval of the Federation Council.

Considering the absolute inadequacy and decorative nature of IAEA control, any Russian deal involving fissionable materials should be hedged by strict conditions of Russian national supervision (including any inspections at any time at any facilities) for the purpose of detecting a possible violation of nonproliferation procedures. Another indispensable condition should be the immediate termination of all projects following the discovery of such violations (including some serious sanctions). And the demand as one further indispensable condition of such deals for the presence in the structure of legislation of the country concluding the deal with us of provisions outlawing activity pertaining to the creation of nuclear weapons. It would be important to adopt such decisions or, at least, state our desire for their adoption right now, in the course of the preparations for the May meeting of the presidents of the United States and Russia. One thing is clear: To persist with the current practice of the domination of the interests of the Ministry of Atomic Energy over the interests of national security is no longer tolerable. This is dangerous both for Russia and for the world community.

Iraq To Allow Russia To Develop Two Major Oil Fields

LD2504103895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has decided to give the right to Russia to develop two major oil fields, situated in the southern part of the country. This was announced today by Iraqi Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad al-Habubi, who addressed a session of the National Council (parliament) in Baghdad.

Russian Minister of Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafranik, now on a visit in Iraq, was received by Saddam Husayn on Monday [24 April]. "Russians are our friends, and we are maintaining good relations with them," the Iraqi minister said, explaining why Husayn decided to give preference to Russia, when considering the problem of the North Rumeila and West Kurna oil fields. The two of them can produce about one million barrels of oil a day. According to Safa' Hadi Jawad, many foreign companies were vying for the right to invest money in their development.

He stressed that the details of Russia's participation in the development of Iraqi oil resources were being discussed at the talks with Shafranik. A corresponding document is expected to be signed at the beginning of the current visit of the Russian minister of fuel and energy to Iraq.

Moscow Denies Kabul Radio Report of Badakhshan Air Raid

LD2404115495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1112 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Delhi, 24 Apr—At least three people died and 46 were injured as a result of a missile attack on the northern Afghan province of Badakhshan. Kabul Radio reported on Sunday that on Saturday [22 April], four Russian Air Force helicopters carried out a strike on the village of Maymay in the vicinity of Darwaz. [passage omitted]

The press centers of the Air Force, the Ministry of Defense, and the border troops of the Russian Federation told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today that there were no combat sorties by the Air Forces in the direction of Afghanistan and that the claims by Kabul radio do not correspond to the truth.

Kozyrev Backs Meeting of Serb, Bosnian, Croatian Leaders

LD2504095995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2205 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Berezhkov and Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York, 25 Apr [date as received]—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has backed the initiative of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation to ask the presidents of Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia to hold a meeting under the aegis of this nongovernment organization which advocates freedom of religion, mutual understanding, and tolerance with the aim of ending ethnic conflicts.

"I believe that an unofficial meeting between the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia, and Croatia would give them a beautiful opportunity to discuss their problems frankly," A. Kozyrev said at a news conference in New York on Monday [24 April]. "This is a good initiative, and I fully welcome and support it." The Russian minister said: The Contact Group is making every effort to achieve peace in Bosnia. [passage omitted]

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Moscow Opposes Declaring Bosnian Serb Leaders Criminals

LD2504113595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1112 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 25 (Interfax)—There has been negative reaction in Moscow to plans by the international tribunal for war crimes in former Yugoslavia to bring charges of genocide and crimes against civilians against Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic and Army Commander Ratko Mladic.

"Such a step would be damaging to peace efforts in the Balkans", a senior Russian diplomat told Interfax on Tuesday.

In his words, the specifics of the regional problem is that a large number of political and military leaders are guilty of unlawful actions directly or indirectly. "But they are seen as freedom fighters by one side and as criminals by the other," he said.

The diplomat warned against attempts to delve into the past calling to concentrate on seeking ways of a political solution to the conflict instead.

He said Russia will continue to play an active part in the peace process. "But if we revert to name calling and exposing criminals in former Yugoslavia, we'd better abandon active diplomacy to sit on the prosecutor's bench", he said.

Russia To Supply Cryogenic Boosters to India as Agreed

LD2104151495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax)—Russia will meet by the year 2000 its commitments on the supply of nine cryogenic boosters to India for a three-stage GSLV rocket, Nikolay Semenov declared in an interview with Interfax Friday.

The first booster will be shipped to India in late 1996, the rest - every six months after the delivery of the first.

With the boosters, GSLV will put a load of up to 2.5 tonnes into a geostationary orbit, 36,000 kilometers above the ground to make India the world's fifth nation (after U.S., Russia, China, and France) capable of launching communication satellites.

Concluded by Glavkosmos of Russia and India in January of 1991, the $300-million contract provided for cryogenic boosters to be supplied and tested, and their manufacture technology to be passed on India.

However, the U.S., referring to restrictions envisaged by the rocket technologies control regime, compelled Russia to give up the transfer of booster-making technology to India and even imposed on Glavkosmos sanctions that were not dropped until 1994. The Glavkosmos management has regarded the action as "the start of a trade war", which has done Russia $10 million worth damage.

However, the contract has been left intact in regard to the delivery of boosters themselves, "and today, it guarantees employment to scores of thousands of workers" in Russia, Glavkosmos declared.

Glavkosmos was formed in 1995 to use rocketry and space equipment for science, national economy, and international cooperation.

Resumption of Military Contacts With Sudan Criticized

954F2132A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Ivanov: "New Moscow Challenge to the West: Russia Is Prepared To Arm the Islamists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The maneuvers of Russian diplomacy in the Near East in recent months have been unambiguously perceived here as Moscow's return to its policy of the times of the USSR—support for radical regimes. New confirmation of this was the recent visit to Sudan of a high-level Russian military delegation. As a result of the negotiations the parties agreed to resume military cooperation. Moscow sending military equipment and advisers to its partner are what is meant by this locution, as a rule.

The political context of what is happening makes this event news justifying its appearance on the front pages of the Arab press. The whole point being that the military cooperation of Moscow and Khartoum has a very long history going back to the 1960's, when this African country also was subjected to the experiment involving the building of socialism. This cooperation ceased, however, in 1971, after the failure of the attempted coup in Khartoum and the execution of the plotters. The latter were communists—Moscow protested.

Agreement was reached in the course of the Russian generals' above-mentioned visit on a return to implementation of the agreements of a quarter-century ago. But much has changed in Sudan in the past decades. A regime of Islamic extremists who have publicly proclaimed themselves not only allies of Tehran but also "proponents of the ideas of Islamism in the Arab world" has been installed in the country. These slogans are being put into practice also—it was established long since that a sizable part of the Islamic combatants fighting against the Governments of Egypt and Algeria underwent military training in special camps on the territory of Sudan under the leadership of Iranian specialists.

In addition, the Khartoum regime proved to be the ally of Baghdad in the course of the Iraqi aggression against neighboring Kuwait in 1990. Iraqi missiles targeted at strategic facilities of Egypt were installed on the territory of Sudan on the threshold of Desert Storm. Among the

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targets was the Aswan Dam. And the concentration of Iraqi subunits in Port Sudan just about led to the start of a real war with Egypt at that time.

The present Sudan regime is considered a so-called sponsor of international terrorism, despite the extradition to France last year of the celebrated Carlos, nicknamed the "Jackal." Authoritative international organizations, the European Union included, are calling on countries to refrain from large-scale cooperation with Khartoum, on the principle, specifically, of this regime's mass violations of human rights connected with the armed suppression of the protests of the Christian tribes in the south of the country.

Following the well-known "bridge building" between Moscow, Tehran, and Baghdad recently, the intention proclaimed by the Russian generals to interact with the Sudan regime is being perceived in the above-mentioned context here as a new Moscow challenge to the West or as an attempt by the Kremlin to put pressure on it. The reference is primarily to the United States in connection, for example, with its position on the question of the expansion of NATO. After all, cooperation with Khartoum clearly promises Moscow no financial benefit—Sudan is currently in the category of the poorest African countries, which are not in a position to pay off even the existing debts.

Helicopter Training of Aum Shinrikyo Members Denied

LD2504101095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0949 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian air forces rejected on Tuesday [25 April] media reports that members of the Japanese Aum Shinrikyo sect had allegedly been trained to pilot Mi-8 helicopters in Russia.

The press centre of the Air Forces General Headquarters told ITAR-TASS that such reports are groundless since no Japanese citizens have ever been trained at any of Russia's bases. Moreover, the training bases of the Russian air forces have neither facilities nor training programmes to operate the "civil" Mi-8 helicopter.

Japanese media reports about Aum's three members who allegedly had spent a month at a Russian air force base learning how to pilot Mi-8, "were designed to cast a shadow on our armed forces and put Russia into a position of a country accused of backing extremists", the press centre said.

Grachev To 'Reform' 14th Army Staff; Lebed Offered New Post

LD2504105695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0931 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—The Russian defense minister [Pavel Grachev] has decided to "reform" the staff of the 14th Army stationed in the Dniester region, while its commander, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, has been offered a choice of several posts in which to continue his career, said Colonel Nikolay Malyshev, head of the Russian land forces press center, to an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

According to Malyshev, the staff of the 14th Army, which numbers around 200 people, will be reformed in accordance with the Russian defense minister's directive of 19 April. This, the press center head said, is due to the fact that the 14th Army's total size has approached that of the personnel of a reduced-size division as a result of its successive reduction. However, in spite of all these changes, the size of the army's staff has remained virtually unchanged, Colonel Malyshev stressed.

Thus, Malyshev said, the defense minister has decided to replace the army's staff with an operational directorate which will be approximately half the size. Apart from carrying out its direct tasks, it will also command the reduced-size division which the 14th Army has now become.

It is planned to complete all the reform measures by 1 July of this year, the head of the press center continued.

On the fate of the commander of the army, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, Malyshev said that he was being offered a choice of various posts. His general's post—in the newly created directorate—also remains, he said.

Prosecutor's Office Investigating Belarusian Military Sale

LD1904122795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1006 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (Interfax)—The Russian Main Military Prosecutor's Office has investigated into the Belarusian delivery of a C-300 PMU air defense complex to the United States, well-informed military sources told Interfax.

It was revealed that the Belarussian Beltechexport company which made the delivery in December 1994 violated the requirements of Article 7 of the agreement between the Russian and Belarusian governments on production and scientific-technical cooperation of defense enterprises of 1993. All in all, four separate elements of the air defense complex have been sent to the United States: radars of brightening and guidance, radars of target detection at low heights, a system of autonomous electricity supply and mobile laboratory.

The Rosvooruzhenie state company concluded that the delivery of these elements "did not inflict considerable damage on the Russian air defense, but some technical decisions may be used by the U.S. side to modernize its air defense within a few years."

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Grachev Takes Tough Stand on Protecting Russians Abroad

LD2404163995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 24 (INTERFAX)—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said that he himself had always been taking a tough stand as far as protection of the so-called Russian-speaking population living outside Russia was concerned.

Commenting on the recent tough statements of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the issue, Grachev told INTERFAX today, "the present situation with Russian-speakers is likely to be such that Andrey Kozyrev has decided to speak about their protection more toughly."

Grachev said he believed that the problem was specially sharp in such a hot spot on the ex-USSR territory as Tajikistan.

He said he had made known his tough position on the necessity for protecting the lives of Russian servicemen to Tajik representatives during the last meeting of the Council of Defense Ministers and the joint meeting of the CIS defense and foreign ministers and border guard command in Moscow on April 21.

Grachev said there had been incidents when Russian servicemen were beaten or sometimes killed. He said such a situation could not be tolerated any longer.

SVR Head Primakov Outlines Outside Security Threats

MK2104112095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Eduard Ryzhkin under the "Opinion" rubric: "Yevgeniy Primakov Points to Three Sources of Threat to Russian Security. SVR Director Said He Is 'Speaking as a Private Person'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite a decreasing likelihood of a global confrontation, a threat to Russian security still remains, albeit in a slightly modified form. This was said by Yevgeniy Primakov, head of the Foreign Intelligence Service [SVR], at the Russian scientific-practical conference "Russian National Security: Social, Spiritual, and Moral Aspects." Mr. Primakov stressed in particular that he is speaking as a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, but some of his conclusions are based on SVR information.

In Yevgeniy Primakov's view, the first group of foreign threats springs from the "desire of certain forces to deprive Russia of great-power status, to impose disadvantageous conditions of interstate collaboration on it." Meanwhile, it is impossible "to create favorable conditions for reform without retaining great-power status." Yevgeniy Primakov pointed to the partially anti-Russian orientation of the plans for NATO's expansion that would bring the bloc's military infrastructure closer to Russian borders. At the same time, even at this stage military planning is under way in the West "according to what we see as worst-case scenarios, including those using nuclear arms." The academician mentioned a negative trend toward Russian specialists' exodus from the country and the West's desire to limit the export of Russian science-intensive technologies. As an example, he cited the situation over the sale of a nuclear reactor to Iran.

The next group of threats to Russian security is related to the aggravation of regional conflicts. The crisis zone continues spreading and has already spilled over into both Europe (the Yugoslav crisis) and Russia (the North Caucasus). Civil war continues in Afghanistan, destabilizing the situation in Central Asia. The extremely negative influence of extremist Islamic organizations on the international situation is on the rise.

A serious threat to security is posed by the desire of a number of states to possess weapons of mass destruction, and also by environmental problems. Mr. Primakov emphasized in particular that organized crime, which, by his account, has penetrated the civil service, is showing a trend toward entering the international scene. In conclusion, Yevgeniy Primakov pointed out the need to draw up a program of Russian national security.

Minister Insists 'Not a Single Gram' of Plutonium Missing

AU2404160995 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 24 Apr 95 p 32

[Interview with Deputy Nuclear Energy Minister Yevgeniy Mikerin by an unidentified DER SPIEGEL correspondent; place and date not given: "Arrows Against Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] The Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry still claims that the plutonium seized in Munich did not come from Russia. Why are you so sure?

[Mikerin] We asked the German authorities to give us samples of the plutonium seized in Munich for analyses. Yet what we got were the results of the examinations made in Juelich. However, even they showed quite clearly that the plutonium was not a composition we use.

[DER SPIEGEL] How can you see this?

[Mikerin] Because of the concentration values and the mixture of uranium and plutonium. We have never used such material, neither for peaceful nor military purposes.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does the composition of the material from Munich tell you what this material was supposed to be used for?

[Mikerin] Uranium was deliberately added to the plutonium—probably to give the impression that something important and very dangerous was going on. An expert,

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however, can see immediately that this fantasy mixture cannot be used for any practical purpose.

[DER SPIEGEL] What would be the purpose of such a fraud?

[Mikerin] A chain of such incidents was supposed to revive the lost enemy image. Munich was the big thing, the bomb of this "All Arrows Against Russia" operation. We were supposed to be made to look like the Upper Volta with plutonium. Someone was interested in fanning the situation, but this only worked for a brief period.

[DER SPIEGEL] Who should this be?

[Mikerin] We do not know. If all persons involved had been investigated and if it had been tried to completely clarify the actions of all persons directly involved and the people behind them, this matter would have thrown very, very long shadows. However, in reality, the incidents simply stopped after we agreed on cooperation with our German partners.

[DER SPIEGEL] You insist that the theft of plutonium is impossible in Russia.

[Mikerin] For such a purpose there would have to be a large-scale conspiracy, involving the data processing system, all checks for access to production facilities, and even customs checks. Someone would have to eliminate all this. From a purely theoretical point of view, such a criminal chain from the producer to the customs official can be conceived. However, thorough studies by us and by the security organs have confirmed: Not a single gram of plutonium is missing in our country.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin To Suspend Chechnya Action for VE Celebrations

LD2504091495 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the next few days, a presidential edict will be signed banning combat activities on the territory of Chechnya during the days when the 50th anniverary of victory [in Europe] is being celebrated. Viktor Chernomyrdin announced this on Poklonnaya Hill [in Moscow] today during a ceremony to present the All-Russian Book of Remembrance to the Museum of the Great Fatherland War.

Further Chernomyrdin Comments on 'Moratorium'

LD2504094195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0928 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Tuesday that "today or tomorrow" President Boris Yeltsin will sign a decree imposing a moratorium on combat operations in Chechnya for the period of the V-Day celebrations.

Chernomyrdin told reporters that he hoped "everyone would respond" to the appeal of the Russian president.

The prime minister reminded journalists about a recent major peace-making initiative of the Russian Government to start negotiations with Chechen field commanders without any preconditions and a guarantee of amnesty to members of separatist units.

"We need to live not to fight", Chernomyrdin said, noting that reconstruction works are in full swing in the Chechen Republic.

Chernomyrdin Appeals to Chechens, Promises Amnesty

MM2404153995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 95 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Undated "Appeal by V.S. Chernomyrdin, Chairman of the Russian Federation Government, to the People of the Chechen Republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear compatriots, sons and daughters of the Chechen people!

I am addressing you because I want to be understood at this difficult and bitter time. It is hard to find words to express the pain that our common tragedy has caused. It is a tragedy for the people of Chechnya, deceived by the false promises of leaders who brought them to the brink of destruction. It is also a tragedy for Russia.

I want to express profound sorrow and condolence to the relatives and friends of everyone who has died in the flames of conflict on Chechnya's soil.

But today there is nothing more important than to attain peace and tranquillity and restore a normal life. Each new shot only adds to the bloodshed, making the ruthless logic of war increasingly inexorable.

What is the point of further loss of life? Of further senseless destruction and losses?

Conscious of my responsibility to the people as head of the Russian Federation Government, I reaffirm the sincere desire of the federal authorities for peace and harmony. I reaffirm the government's will and determination to enter upon talks with the command of the armed formations opposing the federal troops in the Chechen Republic with a view to reaching an accord on an end to combat operations on both sides, without preconditions. I reaffirm the decisions that have been adopted on restoring what has been destroyed and providing economic assistance.

Spring is now at its height. The stricken earth awaits human hands. Tormented by their wanderings, people need shelter and warmth, a roof over their heads, and living conditions worthy of human beings. Cities, villages, mosques, highways, and bridges need to be restored. Schools, hospitals, plants, and factories need to start operation.

All this is necessary because it is required by the truth of continuing life, the truth of a proud mountain people. The truth of the future that they will decide for themselves today.

It is those who do not want this,those who do not care about their own people's well-being and good, who are calling over and over again for violence and are continuing to sow fear, intimidating people with threats of vengeance by Russia and with the specters of a past deportation.

I say to the old men and the clergy and to the men and women of the Chechen Republic: Nothing could be further from the truth than this iniquitous lie! Peace on Chechen soil depends primarily on you. And you have already proved that this is indeed so when, relying on your own strength and lofty moral prestige, you prevented bloodshed in many cities and settlements of Chechnya.

There will be neither persecution nor, still less, repressions. The federal authorities guarantee an amnesty for those who were deceived and were members of the armed volunteer militia.

The force of good, the power of creation, and the conscience of reason must be pitted against the force of arms!

People must be given time so wounds can heal, pain can subside, grief can abate, and wisdom can prevail over grievances and hatred!

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Today people need to find their abandoned homes, devote their hearts and minds to their beloved work, return to concerns about their families, children, and old people, and revive their homes.

Power in the republic must belong not merely in words but in reality to worthy representatives of the people. I reaffirm that the Russian Federation Government will provide all necessary assistance to the Chechen people in preparing and holding free elections to organs of local self-government and then elections to the Chechen Republic parliament.

But in order to do this we must come to our senses, show mercy toward each other, and realize that we are all children of the same fatherland. And therefore we are friends and brothers, not enemies engaged in a blood feud.

I insistently beg you, dear compatriots, for the sake of your children, for the sake of the future of the Chechen Republic, for the sake of all Russia's peoples, cast aside enmity and cruelty, overcome strife and mutual mistrust, and support the efforts to restore peace and harmony throughout the republic's territory and the entire North Caucasus.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

Chernomyrdin To Head Democratic Election Group

LD2504091895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0830 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Serov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke today about the setting up of a new election association of democratic forces. Answering an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Chernomyrdin said he will head the association and that this issue had been discussed with President Boris Yeltsin.

He made this statement to journalists after attending a ceremony devoted to the handover of the all-Russian memory book to the museum of the Great Patriotic War.

"I intend to head the election association, which will take part in the elections to the State Duma. My supporters and I have already started work in this area," Chernomyrdin said. "I would like to form a strong election movement so that no extremists can win the elections, so that an efficient government can be formed after 12 December, whichh would be backed by the majority in the Duma."

Chernomyrdin, Rybkin To Lead Alliances in Duma Elections

LD2504084695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0840 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Two major alliances will represent Russia's federal authorities in the December elections to the lower house of the national parliament. The executive alliance will be led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the parliamentary bloc will be headed by Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin.

Chernomyrdin told journalists last week: "We shall march on to the elections. The Government of Russia is interested in a new composition of the State Duma which would support reforms". Viktor Chernomyrdin's electoral alliance will bring together the parties, entrepreneurial and financial structures which are loyal to the present government and its economic policy.

As concerns Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, he is expected to rally around himself those candidates who favour stability and public accord.

It is indicative that Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko, who has called for rescheduling the elections throughout last and this year, does not have the post of the leader of an electoral alliance of federal authorities cut out for him in the presidential administration.

It appears that experts from the analytical centre of the Russian president's administration have concluded that any attempts at rallying the country's democratic forces ahead of the elections to the State Duma were futile and decided to rely on the most authoritative Russian politicians Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ivan Rybkin as people capable of rallying powerful political forces.

The efforts made by federal authorities to secure the victory in the forthcoming elections to the State Duma aim not only to create an effective house in the parliament but also to secure favourable line-up for the presidential elections in June 1996.

Chernomyrdin Stresses Support for Yeltsin

LD2504104495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1010 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Andrey Serov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today announced that he would form and lead an alliance of the country's democratic forces in the forthcoming election campaigns.

Chernomyrdin told ITAR-TASS that he had discussed the move with President Boris Yeltsin.

The prime minister said this during his conversation with journalists after the ceremony of depositing the All-Russia Book of Memory with the Museum of the Great Patriotic War on Moscow's Poklonnaya Hill.

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Chernomyrdin said he supported President Boris Yeltsin "wholly and fully" and stressed that the parliamentary elections must be held this year in full accordance with the constitution.

"We need the elections. The country is living through hard times. We adopted the constitution with this in view, and its potential is far from being exhausted. Russia has had enough shocks and revolutions. It should not be turned again into a testing ground. Russia is our home where accord and stability should reign and we should ensure conditions for normal work and for creative endeavour. This is why we need elections," the prime minister said.

Chernomyrdin promised to speak in greater detail about the alliance's plans. "We will take part in the forthcoming elections. Organisational work is now being done. Together with our comrades-in-arms and fellow-champions we are doing everything in order to effectively participate in the elections and to hold them at an appropriate level so as to elect worthy people to the State Duma, people who want to see Russia stable, powerful and sure of itself."

Military & Nuclear Issues

General Lebed To Leave Current Post

LD2504111395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chisinau, 25 Apr—Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that he intends to leave his post as commander of the Russian 14th Army because of the imminent reorganization of its administration. Lieutenant-General Lebed stressed that the administration of the 14th Army, stationed in the Dniester region, would cease to exist in accordance with the directive of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. Aleksandr Lebed said that "the commander of the army will be left without a job."

Security Measures at Nuclear Facilities Outlined

MM2404142095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Apr 95 Weekend Edition p 4

[Report by Andrey Lvov: "Nuclear Spetsnaz. Special Subunit To Combat Nuclear Terrorism Set Up in Closed City of Ozersk, Former Chelyabinsk-65"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Mayak" Chemical Combine, the Soviet Union's first nuclear giant, is located here. It will also be protected by spetsnaz officers.

There are already more than enough people wanting to serve in the special battalion. There are three people competing for every vacancy. Despite the fact that the job requirements are extremely tough. There are no economic activities. All the time is spent in constant training, rehearsing hand-to-hand combat techniques, detection and neutralization of snipers, cross-country running, and firing. As a result the spetsnaz men must master all kinds of firearms. And to limber up they will in all probability patrol particularly crime-ridden stretches of the Chelyabinsk-Yekaterinburg Highway.

I must point out that on the eve of the ninth anniversary of the tragedy at the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] Russia's nuclear installations are paying particular attention to stepping up security measures. There are reasons for that if you recall, for instance, last year's furor over the export of radioactive materials to Germany that allegedly originated in Russia. Or the high-profile saga of the theft of fissionable materials from a naval base.

According to reports from Arzamas-16, in the last year the number of unauthorized attempts to enter the Federal Nuclear Center's [FNC] closed zone has doubled. But, the Center's leadership claims that there is no cause for concern regarding the safekeeping of the materials. The center has a three-tier system for the protection of the installation, which meets IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] requirements. You can only get into the zone via a checkpoint and only then with a special pass.

Moreover, each of the FNC production zones has a guarded perimeter fence and some buildings at the sites conducting the most important and secret work have their own fences and alarm systems.

Foreigners are restricted from entering not only Arzamas-16 itself but also some neighboring areas. There are considerable reasons for such tight restrictions. There are reports that one in four foreign citizens who come to Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, which is where Arzamas-16 is located, are involved with the special services and use any means to "approach" FNC personnel, proposing mutually beneficial cooperation.

It is not surprising that in these conditions fairly rigorous preventive measures are being taken. Thus, for instance, all residents of Arzamas-16 and their guests give a written undertaking not to divulge state secrets. People with the greatest knowledge of state secrets are deprived of a chance of going abroad on private business and, if they do go, it is only as a member of a delegation with the atomic energy minister's personal permission.

The counterintelligence service keeps a vigilant eye on observance of these norms; it monitors the knowledge of all residents of the nuclear city without exception. Including those who change jobs for various reasons. They generally remain covered by "restricted movement" for five years. Violating accepted norms may cost the nuclear specialists dear. For instance, under the law on state secrets and the Russian Federation Criminal Code disclosure of secrets or loss of secret documents without signs of espionage or treason carries the threat of up to eight years' imprisonment. And if, God forbid,

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someone dares to take the same actions, but there are elements of espionage, they may pay with their life. The corresponding article of the Criminal Code envisages punishment up to and including the supreme penalty for such crimes. Harsh but fair, so to speak....

Despite the nuclear scientists' relatively miserly pay, which stands at around 300,000 rubles a month on average, the work on developing new nuclear weapons is continuing in Arzamas-16, although admittedly without full-scale nuclear tests. The new models are simulated using conventional explosions and simulators. But which ones is a secret...

Federal Assembly

Upper Chamber's Yepimakhov Views Army Service Law

MM2404084995 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Aleksandr Yepimakhov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense, by Petr Karapetyan; place and date not given: "Populism Must Not Prevent Highly Grave Troop Staffing Crisis From Being Overcome"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you know, the Federal Law "On Changes and Addenda to the Russian Federation Law 'On Military Service Obligation and Military Service,'" recently adopted by the State Duma was to be examined by the 19th session of the Federation Council. This law, which envisages increasing the term of draft service to two years along with a number of other measures designed to resolve the highly grave problems of troop manning has been long awaited by the Army. The senators have not as yet had time for it. This worries many of our readers. What stance does the Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense take on this issue? Our correspondent met this committee's deputy chairman, Aleksandr Yepimakhov.

[Yepimakhov] I must point out that this law was prepared by the government. It will make it possible to prevent what are potentially extremely grave consequences for the safeguarding of defense and the state's security.. The point is that the current law "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service" makes provision for an unreasonably wide range of grounds for exempting citizens from military service and for granting them draft deferrals. As a result troop manning levels are low and there is a catastrophic shortage of NCO's and enlisted men. Unless fundamental measures are taken as a matter of urgency....But judge for yourselves: There are around 1.5 million draftees today. Right now only 23 percent of them can be drafted. Thus, by the end of 1995 staffing levels will stand at no more than 60 percent of the regulation numerical strength, there will be a shortfall of over 700,000 draftees. That spells collapse....

[Karapetyan] But the reaction from a number of political forces to the law adopted by the State Duma 7 April is well known. They are threatening strikes, student disturbances, and a social explosion.... Some newspapers are once again—as has happened before— publishing all manner of petitions and what are patently organized appeals, claiming to be the "voice of the public...."

[Yepimakhov] The Law "On Amendments and Addenda..." is of course unpopular but highly essential. You see what has happened: Discussion of this law and the debate as to whether there should be a law or not, came on the eve of the election campaign. You will agree that the social contingent affected by this law is extremely wide. Some people are using that contingent's sentiments to gain a definite head start for the election race ahead. Cheap populism and blatant demagogy are also coming into play. Does everyone in our country really not have equal rights? Does military service only fall to the lot of the children of workers and peasants? There is no need to say that young people's rights are being infringed. I think that deferral alone is quite enough. If you have taken advantage of it to go to an institute and study health, after your studies be a man and do your military service, and then, if you so desire, go to another VUZ [higher educational establishment]. I see the law like this: It is highly essential for our Army, and in precisely this version.

[Karapetyan] Aleksandr Leonidovich, what is the stance espoused by the whole Committee?

[Yepimakhov] We are unanimous on the main point: namely that the highly complex situation requires suitable measures. It is extremely necessary for graduates of VUZ's and people studying at military departments (apart from th[illegible]ho have concluded a contract for military instruction under the reserve officer training program) to be drafted for a year after which they should be awarded primary reserve officer rank—I am talking about 40,000-60,000 draftees a year.

As of fall 1995 we must switch to a two-year period of service. Then, counting those who are already in the service, the shortfall of enlisted men and NCO's will drop by 260,000 in the fall. The proposed measures will make it possible to provide the troops with 75-85 percent of the required manning level and will help extricate them from the crisis—and this is very important—without exacerbating the sociopolitical situation in the country. Incidentally, we calculate that these measures will not necessitate additional financial outlay this year. [Yepimakhov ends]

Well then, the stance espoused by the Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense is clear and quite responsible. But what is the mood in the Federation Council as a whole? We will find out that in the near future—its next session opens 25 April.

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Upper House Tardy in Examining Military Service Law

MM2404150895 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "The Federation Council Will Not Examine the Law Relating to the Army Draft. Now It Is Down to the President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the morning session of the State Duma 21 April, Lev Ponomarev, speaking on behalf of a group of deputies, proposed that they return to the Federal Law "On Changes and Addenda to the Russian Federation Law 'On Military Service Obligation and Military Service'." As is well known this law was adopted by the Duma and sent to the upper chamber quite a long time ago.

By an overwhelming majority deputies rejected their colleague's proposal. The fact that a group of opponents of the law in the Duma had asked the upper chamber not to ratify the Law "On Changes and Addenda..." was also disregarded.

Meanwhile, as KRASNAYA ZVEZDA was told at the Federation Council, the regular session of the upper chamber has been postponed from 25 April to 3 May. Consequently, the chamber will not be able to discuss the law received from the Duma 10 April within the constitutionally prescribed 14-day deadline. In that event, according to the constitution, the law will be sent directly to the president for signature.

Duma Holds Hearings on Federal, Regional Property Classes

MK1904092095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Property" rubric: "Moscow Will Divide State property With Each Component Separately. Components Like the Case-By-Case Approach"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hearings were held in the State Duma yesterday on the problem of dividing state property into federal and regional classes.

Federal government spokesmen complained that the heads of regional administrations are currently "fighting for all they are worth" for the right to control state-owned blocks of enterprises slated for corporatization. The government is convinced, however, that "the state-owned block should be in the hands of the state."

Zaydulla Yuzbekov, chairman of Dagestan's Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee on the Administration of State Property], is confident that the problem of dividing property into federal and regional will become simplified "as privatization really is really implemented, that is to say, as state property is transferred into private hands." Dagestan's Goskomimushchestvo head thinks the currently existing documents on the privatization procedure are "very practical, convenient for use" and the state property question "is best solved if one is guided precisely by them." He even thinks that real privatization "could iron out many conflicts in the Northern Caucasus."

Khalil Barlybayev, head of Bashkortostan's Committee on the Administration of State Property, told those present that his republic generally does not much need any rules on how to divide property: Ufa and Moscow have concluded a treaty which specifies which property is Bashkortostan's and which is federal and which "is under joint jurisdiction." Bashkortostan's leadership is quite pleased with the fact that this treaty lists among federal property, for example, defense facilities because, as Mr. Barlybayev subtly remarked, "property does not always mean profits, it also means outlays." As for jointly owned enterprises, the republic's leadership concludes separate agreements with federal ministries specifying the mandatory size of financing.

Judging by what the other regional representatives said, the experience of regulating any property relations with the center on the basis of bilateral treaties and agreements—of the Tatarstan or Bashkortostan type—suits virtually all Federation components. This is the key provision in the draft law "On the Procedure and Principles of Delimiting Jurisdictions and Powers between Federal Bodies of Power and the Bodies of State Power of Russian Federation Components," which was forwarded to the State Duma several days ago by President Boris Yeltsin.

Duma Committee Hearings on Relations With Kazakhstan

MM2104123395 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Musiyenko under the "Parliamentary Hearings" rubric: "Things Have Become Bleak in Our Native Land...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Explaining the reasons why the Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Ties With Compatriots decided to hold parliamentary hearings on Russian-Kazakhstani relations, Committee Chairman Konstantin Zatulin noted that the future of integration in the post-Soviet area largely depends on accords between the four largest states—Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Mutual relations with Ukraine and Belarus have already been analyzed in detail in the Duma, and now it is Kazakhstan's turn....

It was stressed at the hearings that Kazakhstan is a friendly country to Russia. But something else is no secret either—according to data of the Kazakhstani Labor Ministry Migration Department, in the first nine months of 1994 alone 362,000 people left the republic, most of them Russians. And here is some extremely eloquent data from a sociological poll carried out by activists of the republic's "Lad" Slav movement among

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depr ting ethnic Russians: Ninety-seven percent of those polled stated that they would have stayed in Kazakhstan had Russian been declared the second state language, and 91 percent stated they would have stayed had dual citizenship been introduced in Kazakhstan.

Of course, Kazakhstan only stands to lose from the mass exodus of scientists, specialists, and skilled workers. As regards the Cossacks, who since time immemorial have lived in lands which now belong to "the state of the self-determined Kazakh nation," they can equally be regarded as Kazakhstan's indigenous population. They will never leave the graves of their forefathers and, having once despaired, they would prefer to secure the return of their ancient lands to Mother Russia. So why provoke tension in one's own house by "squeezing" Cossack village inhabitants in every way?

Unfortunately, Kazakhstan's "upper echelons" are continuing to pursue a policy of transforming more than one-half of the republic's population into "second-class citizens:" They are sweeping aside the demands to give Russian the status of second state language and they do not want to hear about dual citizenship, although Kazakhs have this right.

Tair Mansurov, Republic of Kazakhstan ambassador to the Russian Federation, who was allowed to speak, gave his assurance that there are no interethnic problems in his native country and that the state shows touching concern for all Kazakhstan's peoples. But since "everything is fine and dandy," the ambassador has absolutely no idea what these "troublemakers" are dissatisfied about. Mr. Mansurov's answers to the questions of Duma deputies, Cossack hetmans, and activists of Kazakhstan's Russian organizations were so equivocal that they could not satisfy anybody....

The Committee for CIS Affairs is formulating its conclusions on the results of the hearings in a little while and will then make recommendations to the State Duma as to whether a whole number of treaties and agreements between Russia and Kazakhstan should be ratified.

Duma Rejects LDPR Motions on Ukraine, Iraq, Libya

LD2104120395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0957 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 21 (Interfax)—The State Duma, Russian parliament's lower house, did not back Friday a motion by Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy not to sign a treaty with Ukraine until the Crimean and Black Sea Fleet issues are resolved.

His motion to include the Treaty Relations with Ukraine item in the Duma agenda was rejected in a 196-15 vote, 226 votes being necessary in order to pass a motion.

His motion to have sanctions against Libya lifted also failed because as few as 156 MPs supported it. So did his motion to accelerate the final drafting of a State Duma resolution on lifting the sanctions against Iraq for which 201 voted. The resolution was passed by the State Duma in a first reading last week.

LDPR Deputy Apologizes for Hitting Colleague

LD2104123095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1114 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—A lawmaker from the Liberal-Democratic Party [LDPR] of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy apologised to his communist colleague who he had hit in the assembly hall and the Russian State Duma cancelled its earlier decision to expell Vitaliy Zhuravlev from the session. However, the Duma kept its decision to deny the floor to the offender until the end of May.

Zhuravlev, 31, hit Vladimir Bokov, 68 in the assembly hall. The reasons of the clash were not immediately clear.

Zhirinovskiy, who himself was several times involved in brawls with other lawmakers, tried to defend his party member, but Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin advised him "not to make militants out of his deputies".

However, Zhuravlev remained in the Duma assembly hall. Rybkin allowed him to stay, but only as "a private individual".

After Zhuravlev publicly apologised to Bokov, Rybkin made it clear that the decision about denying the floor to him may be revised after V-Day celebrations on May 9.

More on Duma Passing Amended Law on Presidential Election

LD2104124795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—The law "on the election of Russian parliament" rejected by the Federation Council was adopted by the lower house of the Federal Assembly again on Friday [21 April].

The Duma went along with the proposal of the upper house to reduce from 1.5 million to one million the number of the required signatures of voters in support of the nominated candidate that should be collected by an association, a bloc or initiative group of voters.

There has also been an amendment saying that if the Federation Council does not appoint the presidential election in the timeframe stipulated by law, the election of head of state will be held by the Central Electoral Commission on the first Sunday of the month following that in which Russian president's powers expire.

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Another amendent to the law endorsed by Duma deputies on Friday presupposes that if the Federation Council, deciding on president's impeachment, does not appoint the election of head of state, the election will be held by the Central Electoral Commission on the last Sunday before the expiry of three months since the day of Russian president's impeachment.

In addition, deputies made a supplement to the article of the law under which president-elect is inaugurated on the 30th day since the returns of the election of head of state are officially announced by the Central Electoral Commission. The acting president discharges his duties until the president-elect is inaugurated.

The law passed repeatedly will be referred to the Federation Council again.

Duma Rejects Yeltsin Version of Federation Council Decree

LD2104145595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax)—On Friday Russia's State Duma declined the president-proposed version of the decree "On the Principles of the Formation of Russia's Federal Assembly's Federation Council."

As many as 56 deputies voted for this draft which proposes to delegate representatives of executive and representatives power bodies of the Federation's constituent members, 91 voted against, and 9 abstained.

As many as 300 deputies gave their backing to an alternative draft of this decree proposed by the committees on legislation under the parliament's both chambers which provides for holding direct elections to the Federation Council, 14 were against and 2 abstained.

Deputies Demand Action Against Destroyer of Ukraine's Flag

LD2104150995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax)—Seven State Duma deputies sent to the acting Prosecutor General Aleksey Ilyushenko on Friday a collective request over an incident in the Russian parliament's lower house on April 7 when Nikolay Lysenko, leader of the National Republican Party ripped a national flag of Ukraine.

The request authors note that "for a similar action by Ukrainian nationalists in regard to a national flag of Russia, Ukraine's Prosecutor General has instigated a legal case." The deputies wonder "why has the Russian Prosecutor General's Office up till now kept silent" and "when actions by right wing extremists in and outside the State Duma will get a proper legal judgement."

The request was signed by Vladimir Yuzhakov and Vladimir Ryzhkov of the Russia's Choice faction, Vladimir Goman of the Russia group, Yuriy Yakovlev of the Democratic Party's faction, Viktor Ustinov of the Stability group, Ekaterina Lakhova of the Russia's Women faction, and Vladimir Lysenko of the Republican Party.

State Duma Resolution on Amnesty Scheduled for Adoption

LD2104181795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax)—On Friday the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly adopted the draft resolution of Russia's State Duma "On Amnesty with Respect to People who Committed Illegal Actions during Armed Conflicts in the North Caucasus" in principle.

This document is scheduled for consideration and adoption in general on April 26 after revisions.

Leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction Vladimir Zhirinovskiy categorically opposed adopting this resolution and described it as "monstrous and absolutely unnecessary."

The draft resolution relieves those "people who committed unlawful actions during the armed conflict in the Chechen republic and who willfully halted armed resistance and the servicemen acting there now who committed illegal deeds in the same period" from criminal responsibility.

Amnesty is not granted to those who "raped, took hostages as prisoners or kidnapped, who committed robberies, thefts and those who earlier were recognized as especially dangerous recidivists."

At the sitting, Deputy Chairman of the Security Committee Viktor Mironov (Stability deputy group) pointed out that an analogous resolution of the State Duma on amnesty regarding participants of the armed operations in the Chechen republic, adopted by the State Duma last December, was not implemented due to the fact that it did not exclude from amnesty those people who committed the above mentioned especially grave crimes.

Barchuk To Represent Government in Duma Pension Debate

MM2104190795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 95 First Edition p 5

[Directive No. 479-r of the Russian Federation Government, signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin and dated 11 April 1995, Moscow]

[FBIS Translated Text]

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1. The draft federal law "On the Size of Insurance Contributions to the Russian Federation Pension Fund" is to be submitted to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly for consideration.

2. Vasiliy Vasilyevich Barchuk, chairman of the board of the Russian Federation Pension Fund, is appointed the Russian Federation Government's official representative during consideration by the chambers of the Federal Assembly of the draft federal law "On the Size of Insurance Contributions to the Russian Federation Pension Fund."

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Krylov To Represent Government When Duma Views OECD Accord

MM2104191295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 95 First Edition p 5

[Untitled Directive No. 474-r of the Russian Federation Government, signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin and dated 7 April 1995, Moscow]

[FBIS Translated Text]

1. The agreement between the Russian Federation and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the Organization's privileges and immunities in the Russian Federation, signed in Paris 8 June 1994, is to be submitted to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly for ratification.

2. Sergey Borisovich Krylov, Russian Federation deputy minister of foreign affairs, is appointed the Russian Federation Government's official representative during the consideration by the chambers of the Federal Assembly of the question of ratifying the agreement envisaged in Paragraph 1 of this directive.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Duma's Zadornov Lauds New Laws on Banking

MM2504093595 Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of Russian Federation State Duma Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finance Committee, by Igor Ostrovskiy under the "Commentary Hot on the Heels" rubric; place and date not given: "The Law Is a Guarantee of Reliability"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has adopted the laws "On the Central Bank of the Russian Federation" and "On Banks and Banking Activity" on their third reading. These normative acts are to start "working" after the usual procedure of coordination with the Federation Council and the Presidential Staff. What will they bring society? Will they be able to change the now widespread negative opinion of banks and bankers?

Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the State Duma Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finance Committee, answers questions put by TRUD correspondent Igor Ostrovskiy.

[Zadornov] Today the activities of banks and banking establishments are governed by a law adopted three years ago. At that time Russia's two-tier banking system was only taking shape. The existing law was essentially aimed at destroying the former monopoly banking system rather than regulating its normal activity.

[Ostrovskiy] Speaking of the changes, incidentally, would you rate them with a plus or a minus sign?

[Zadornov] There is no unequivocal answer. On the one hand, we have a right to say that a modern two-tier banking system has been built in Russia.

One tier is the Central Bank with its regional structures, and the other—almost 2,700 commercial banks. Banking today is the fastest developing sector of the Russian economy. You can only wonder at how quickly Russian bank cadres have grown and at how little inferior they are to their foreign colleagues.

But, on the other hand, the banks have "taken" capital out of production and transferred it to trade and the financial sphere. In addition, owing to the dishonesty and even the simply criminal nature of certain dealers, some commercial banks (the majority of which are quite successful) have become infamous as robbers of society. All this has given rise to a number of complex problems which need resolving as quickly as possible. I hope that the new laws will assist in this.

[Ostrovskiy] You have mentioned problems and questions to which answers must be given in the laws. What specifically do you have in mind?

[Zadornov] It is necessary, first of all, to speak of the need to step up bank controls. The law "On the Central Bank of the Russian Federation" lays down exactly which forms of banking and financial activity will be licensed. Measures of influence against violators have also been established, to which the Central Bank will be able to resort. They are severe, right down to revoking a license. In addition, the whole system of the Central Bank's relations with the government and the Presidential Staff is in need of improvement and legislative establishment, as well as those between the Central Bank's regional structures and the local authorities. It was necessary to create a law which would guarantee the national bank's genuine independence so that it, the bank, would not be an obedient tool in petty political intrigues of the moment but would be responsible only for the stability and steadiness of the Russian monetary system.

[Ostrovskiy] Mikhail Mikhaylovich, what will the ordinary citizen get out of implementing the new laws?

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[Zadornov] A very great deal. Including guarantees for private investors. Do you know how many major scandals caused by the lack of such a guarantee system have occurred in society? It is sufficient to recall "MMM," "Tibet," "Chara," etc. In my view, the new law will erect an obstacle to unscrupulous financiers. Above all, banking operations will be licensed. Special permission will have to be obtained for the right to collect money from the population. Only banks, whose activities are simpler and easier to monitor than is the case with trusts, foundations, joint-stock companies, and other nonbanking financial organizations, will be able to do this. New commercial banks will secure the right to work with the population's money only after two years of operation, having proved their reliability and steadiness.

It has also been defined that the volume of funds attracted by a bank from the population may not exceed its own funds. This has been done to ensure that situations such as in "Chara's" case do not arise. But the most important thing is the formation of a federal fund of compulsory investment insurance. It is to be set up by means of deductions from the commercial banks' profits, and the banks will control it together, only with constant monitoring by the Central Bank.

[Ostrovskiy] Will the commercial banks themselves gain anything?

[Zadornov] It might seem at first sight that to some extent the new laws make tougher demands on the commercial banks. But this exactingness will benefit the banks themselves, since henceforth all relations with the power structures and the Central Bank will be governed by the law. Consequently, there will be no place for ad-libbing, lack of objectivity, or arbitrariness on the part of officials.

[Ostrovskiy] Will the laws be able to change society's image of the banks as robbers of the people?

[Zadornov] First, you cannot change public opinion by means of a law. A positive image depends only on the banks themselves. The laws merely create the conditions for this. Then, so it seems to me, society certainly does not regard all banks as robbers. Take the Inkombank, Promstroybank, "MOST-Bank," Oneksimbank, "Mosbiznesbank," and a whole number of others. They enjoy a reputation as reliable partners precisely because they work without deception. For such banks the law is not a bugaboo or a threat but a tool which they themselves need.

[Ostrovskiy] The commercial banks have now entered a competitive struggle with each other. A struggle to the death. Will the new laws be able to influence it?

[Zadornov] The banks' competition for spheres of influence and for the population's money is an objective phenomenon. It is being embittered by the fact that the state is, of its own will, quitting the most profitable spheres, such as foreign trade and the extraction and sale of fuel and energy resources. Since nature abhors a vacuum, the commercial banks seek to fill it. It is impossible and unnecessary to destroy competition. It is important to bring it within the framework of the law and make it more civilized. The new laws make provision for just this.

Group of Deputies To Contest New Conscription Law

LD2404140395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 24 (Interfax)—A group of Russian deputies are preparing a plea to the Constitutional Court to contest the legitimacy of the new conscription law which was approved in violation of house procedures, State Duma (lower house of parliament) deputy and co-chairman of the Democratic Russia Movement Lev Ponomarev told a news conference in Moscow Monday.

He said the law was approved in three simultaneous readings in the middle of this month in breach of the existing procedure. Ponomarev said 13 amendments were made, two of them entirely changing the legislation.

He also accused the Federation Council (upper house) of refusing to discuss it.

Ponomarev said the Democratic Russia Movement meeting in a conference in Chelyabinsk on April 15 passed a resolution calling on President Boris Yeltsin not to endorse the new law.

The new legislation extends national service from 18 months to two years, with college graduates expected to serve in the army for 12 months.

State Duma Delegation Returns From Armenia

LD2504085695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0835 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—A delegation of the Russian State Duma, made up of Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Artur Chilingarov and chairman of the committee for the CIS affairs and for maintaining ties with compatriots, ended its visit to Armenia today. Representatives of the Russian Federation were the only foreign delegation, that took part in the ceremony, held on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of genocide against Armenians in the Osman Empire.

On Monday night the delegation was received by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. He expressed gratitude to the State Duma for adopting a statement, which denounced genocide against the Armenian nation in 1915-1922, the president's press service reported today. The Armenian leader praised a major personal contribution of Chilingarov and Zatulin to the drafting and

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adopting of the statement. "Thanks to this historic document the taboo on the recognition of the fact of genocide against Armenians by various countries has actually been overcome," Ter-Petrosyan said. This paves the way to the general international recognition of genocide in the Osman Empire, he stressed.

Duma Statement on Victory Day Celebrations in Moscow

MM2504111495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 95 First Edition p 3

[State Duma Statement "On Celebration in Moscow City of 50th Anniversary of Victory over Hitler's Fascism" including State Duma decree on this statement]

[FBIS Translated Text]

State Duma decree on Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma statement "On the celebration in Moscow City of the 50th Anniversary of Victory over Hitler's Fascism"

The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees:

1. That the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma statement "On the celebration in Moscow city of the 50th anniversary of the victory over Hitler's fascism" be adopted.

2. That this statement be sent to the Russian Federation Government and Moscow City Government.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, Moscow, 12 April 1995 no. 688-I GD.

There is no more important or memorable event in the history of the 20th century than the victory of the Soviet people and their allies over Hitler's fascism in the 1941-1945 World War II. The world community is on the eve of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory.

Historical tradition has so developed that in the city of Moscow many thousands of Muscovites and guests of the capital gather 9 May for their traditional meetings at Belorusskiy Station, the M. Gorkiy Central Park of Culture and Leisure, and the square outside the Bolshoy Theater and march to the Eternal Flame at the tomb of the unknown soldier, on Red Square.

A number of official events are planned for this day: A parade of Great Patriotic War veterans on Red Square, a parade of troops on Poklonnaya Gora with the participation of over 50 foreign delegations. Naturally not all those who want to will be able to take part in these events.

It would be blasphemous to darken the mood of the victors in that terrible war by preventing them from celebrating this day according to established tradition. Bans will merely lead to unnecessary tension in society.

The State Duma believes it is possible alongside formal events to hold traditional popular events linked to the celebration of Victory Day.

Before the bright memory of all those who died in the fighting for the Fatherland's freedom and independence and with thanks to the surviving war veterans, the State Duma expresses the hope that this holiday will pass in a spirit of accord and unity.

The State Duma suggests to the Russian Federation Government and Moscow City Government that they coordinate official events held in the first half of 9 May with the traditional mass march by Muscovites from Belorusskiy station to the Bolshoy Theater and the Eternal Flame.

The State Duma asks all deputies' associations to coordinate their actions on victory day to ensure that the people's great holiday passes in an atmosphere of unity and consensus, as was the case 50 years ago.

To ensure civil accord on this festive day it seems expedient for State Duma deputies and representatives of factions to take part in all festive measures. 12 April 1995.

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Chechnya

Northern Fleet Marines Return to Chechnya

LD2404062295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0603 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Murmansk, 24 Apr—Northern Fleet naval infantry are to take part again in settling the Chechen conflict. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the fleet's headquarters this morning that a detachment of up to one battalion of Naval Fleet personnel is to go to North Caucasus as early as the end of April.

Unofficial reports suggest that 80 percent of the detachment that is being formed are volunteers who have already taken part in the battles for Groznyy. Exercises are now being held to perfect the combat operations techniques in populated localities and on mountainous terrain.

Death of 19 MVD Troops Near Gudermes Denied

LD2404112395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 24 (Interfax)—A spokesman for the federal command in Chechnya has dismissed reports that 19 Russian Interior Ministry troops were killed near Gudermes last weekend.

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"The reports are untrue. In reality two Interior Ministry troops died and five others were injured near the Alleroy community", the source said.

The command spokesman said another soldier was injured near the Galayty village in Western Chechnya, when a Russian reconnaissance group was ambushed.

According to the same source Interior Ministry troops supported by army units have continued to disarm illegal armed formations near the communities of Orekhovo and Valerik and in the East, where troops under General Sviridov are driving Dzokhar Dudayev's Gudermes group away from the border with Dagestan.

A total of 100 militants are reported to have been killed in Chechnya and six grenade launchers, 36 artillery shells and a great quantity of small arms seized.

Twelve passenger trains and two cargo trains were led by Chechnya's operational railways under the cover of OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] special police.

In Groznyy an unidentified attacker threw a grenade in the Leninskiy district. There were no casualties.

Federal Troops Continue To Shell Bamut

LD2404134595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAZRAN, April 24 (Interfax)—Today the federal troops continued shelling Chechen positions in the vicinity of the village of Bamut located in the west of the Chechen republic and not far from the administrative border with Ingushetia. Witnesses report the most intensive Grad fire last night.

Dudayev supporters staying on heights around Bamut are not planning to retreat or disarm, said field commander Ramazan Ferzauli.

Head of the Ingush civil defense headquarters Yuriy Gorev told Interfax that commanders of federal units stationed in the Bamut area met administration head from the neighboring Ingush settlement of Arshty Mukharbek Khatsyev Sunday night.

"General Nikolay Cherkasskiy assured us that the federal troops will hold no combat operations against Arshty residents. He proposed to reinforce the posts of local residents and prevent Dudayev militants from penetrating into Ingushetia. Moreover, we were officially told that Bamut refugees staying in Arshty and other populated localities can return home. No illegal actions against them will be allowed on the part of the federal troops," said Gorev.

"We also agreed on the unhampered delivery of bread and other foodstuffs to Bamut and Arshty from the Ingush Sunzhen region via the settlement of Assinovskaya. Wounded and sick persons will be transported away from the area," he added.

At the same time, Cherkassky warned that militants in Bamut must lay down arms and surrender or leave the settlement, noted Gorev.

Border Service: Chechens Not Escaping to Georgia

LD2404134395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 23 (ITAR-TASS)—Russia's Federal Border Service today denied reports about mass violation of the Russian border with Georgia by Chechen militants seeking a new permanent stationing in Abkhazia.

One of the deputy directors of the Federal Border Service of the Russian Federation told ITAR-TASS the service had no information about any facts of border transgression by Chechen militants or any other armed group in the areas guarded by the troops of the special Caucasian border district.

The unlawfully armed Chechen groups do not have sufficient strength to force their way across the border which has been lately reinforced with armoured vehicles and heavy guns.

Moreover, under the inter-state agreement, the stretch of the Russian-Georgian border directly adjacent on Chechnya is guarded by Georgian troops. They are doing their duty in good faith in close contact with Russian border troops with whom they exchange operational information on a daily basis.

According to the Russian Federal Border Service official, much concern is now caused by the Russian-Azeri border. It was there that the Russian border guards alerted by informers last Friday stopped a truck convoy carrying military equipment, ammunition and medication. The convoy was stopped when en route to destination at a Chechen rebels base. The investigation is now underway.

Asked about the potential possibility of mass transborder migration of Dudayev militants, the federal service official told ITAR-TASS that it would be impossible for a number of reasons. One of them is that the border is very dependably guarded with additional reinforcements brought in for the duration of the war in Chechnya. For this reason, all reports about relocation of the unlawfully armed groups are rather political in character. This applies also to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's statement broadcast by national radio on Monday and alleging that Chechen militants were relocating to Abkhazia. This statement is not borne out by any specific facts, the Russian official said.

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Dudayev Commanders Ask To Meet With Grachev

LD2404134195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1326 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 24 (Interfax)—Commanders of Chechen illegal armed units have asked Russian defense minister Pavel Grachev to meet with them, Grachev told Interfax today.

"Field commander Aslan Maskhadov has contacted me via the Commander of the Caucasian military district several times and asked for a meeting," said Grachev. In his words, Maskhadov is also planning to organize a Dudayev-Grachev meeting.

The Russian defense minister, however, does not want to see Dudayev. "His pardon is out of the question. Both Chechens and the federal troops have had losses, and one should be responsible for this," he said.

At the same time, if the decision on negotiations with Dudayev is taken by President Yeltsin, Grachev will "be ready to meet Dudayev any time and any place."

"I do not insist on such actions. I think it is too late to meet," stressed Grachev.

He said he does not plan to help Dudayev, his circle and relatives to flee Russia "for a foreign state. This is also too late. Maybe some other power structures will help him but not me," said the defense minister.

According to Grachev, there is no reliable information about the fate of Dudayev. "As far as we know he has not heard on the radio for more than three weeks," said the minister.

In his opinion, negotiations with Chechen commanders can concern "only disarmament and full surrender. All commanders of Chechen units have been announced criminals together with Dudayev."

'Peace and Accord' Charter Detailed

LD2404181195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1749 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 23 (ITAR-TASS)—The signing of the Peace and Accord Charter was one of the key results of the conference for national accord which was held in Groznyy over the weekend, according to sources in the Russian Interior Ministry.

The sources said the results of the conference were being actively discussed throughout the Chechen Republic on Monday.

The key provisions of the charter are as follows:

1. To immediately cease hostilities in the Chechen Republic;

2. Request the president and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to declare amnesty for those who were involved in illegal actions in connection with the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic;

3. To start disbanding illegal armed groups, upon the development of a respective mechanism, and surrendering and storing military equipment and weapons belonging to them;

4. To take part in the preparation and conduct of general elections to legislative bodies of power of the Chechen Republic;

5. To take an active part in the work of the national accord committees to be set up in every district, town and settlement of the Chechen Republic.

In a short-term perspective, the main task is to prepare general elections in Chechnya and organise the operation of the national accord committees which are to be established in every residential area all over the republic.

According to the same sources, the law enforcement agencies and Interior Ministry troops in Chechnya continued efforts over the weekend to locate and destroy illegal armed groups.

The federal troops did not engage in any offensive action, even though the situation remained quite tense near the residential centres of Bamut, Valerik and Orekhovo.

Some speakers at the conference lashed out at Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. "Dudayev is not heroism, he is blasphemy against the people and the faith," prominent religious leader Ilyas-Khadzhi Daniyev said.

Dadash Aliyev, chairman of the commission for legality of the national accord committee, said that 95 per cent of the Chechen population did not support Dudayev from the very beginning.

According to the Russian Government press service, the charter was signed by the Chechen leaders, including Umar Avturkhanov, Salambek Khadzhiyev, Chechen Mufti Mukhamad Arsanukayev and representatives of the federal authorities, Nikolay Semenov and Aleksandr Babak.

"The Charter of Peace and Accord in the Chechen Republic," is open to all political forces in the republic.

The 1991-1994 anti-Dudayev movement held a meeting in the village of Nadterechnoye on Monday. The participants set up a social and political movement for the restoration of constitutional order in Chechnya and elected Bislan Gantemirov as its chairman.

Meanwhile, refugees continue to return to Groznyy. Its population has already reached 320,000 people. There are three operating hospitals and six polyclinics in the city. Out of 58 schools, 39 have resumed classes. They are attended by about 10,000 children, the press service said.

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Federal Command Reports Death of 27 'Militants'

LD2504112895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (Interfax)—Russian troops in Chechnya destroyed 27 militants during the past 24 hours, Interfax was told by a spokesman for the joint federal command Tuesday.

According to him, exchanges of fire took place to the north-east of Orekhovo, to the south-east of Bamut and to the west of Serzhen- Yurt.

In operations federal troops destroyed two strongholds and 11 firing positions, confiscated a mortar, a grenade-thrower, 27 small arms and 63 grenades.

During the same period federal troops lost three men killed.

Eight guarded freight trains travelled along operating sections of railways.

The federal command spokesman drew attention to the fact that field commanders of Dzhokhar Dudayev have not yet responded to the appeal of Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to the Chechen people in which he expressed Moscow's readiness for talks without preliminary conditions.

Exchanges of Fire Continue Outside Bamut

LD2504112095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAZRAN, April 25 (Interfax)—Federal troops continued intensive shelling of positions held by the Chechen formations in a suburb of the Bamut village in Chechnya's southwest until 3 a.m. last night.

An Interfax correspondent reports from the Ingush village of Arshty, located not far from Bamut, that Grad installations were also used in the shelling.

Tuesday morning the shelling of Bamut was resumed.

A Chechen field commander defending Bamut confirmed that the Chechens have no intention of leaving their positions. He said that neither the shelling nor missile strikes do any tangible harm to the militias, who are skillfully at using the local terrain to their advantage.

Chechen Commander Warns of Counterattack

AU2504115995 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 25 Apr 95

[Report by Sebastian Smith]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Bamut, Russia, April 25 (AFP)—Russian helicopters and long-distance artillery pounded separatist fighters in western Chechnya Tuesday [25 April], but the rebels claimed they were strong enough to counter-attack.

However in Moscow Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said President Boris Yeltsin was ready to declare a moratorium on military operations in the Caucasus republic to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the fall of Nazi Germany. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile in Chechnya helicopters could be seen rocketing Yandi, one of the three main rebel villages holding out in the west of the republic, while tank fire could also be heard in the area.

A hill outside Bamut was hit by Grad multiple rocket and long- range fire all night. Several rounds exploded in the village itself, now deserted and almost entirely destroyed.

On Monday Russian planes, helicopters, tanks and other heavy guns blasted Bamut, Yandi and Stari Achkhoi, but the commander of independence fighters in western Chechnya, Shervani Albarkov, said his forces could counter-attack.

"Today we have the strength to liberate Achkhoy Martan," he said, referring to the small town Chechen fighters recently gave up without a fight.

"We gave it up because it was packed with civilians, but we could take it back, we have the people," he said.

The commander in Bamut, Ramzan Ferzayli, said even if he was forced out of the village, his men were prepared to fight on in the hills or as terrorists.

"If it became impossible to stay at our positions here, we'd start a partisan war, not necessarily in the hills, but from within," Ferzayli said, sitting in a ruined building housing fighters and weapons.

"We'll fight for as long as there are Russian troops in Chechnya, one, five, 10, or 50 years. When we get the order, we'll begin political terrorism. We've asked for the order, but (Chechen President Dzhokhar) Dudayev won't give it yet."

Guerrillas have beaten back three Russian attempts to storm Bamut, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) southwest of the Chechen capital Groznyy. [passage omitted]

Burned-out Russian tanks and armoured personnel carriers lay twisted and blackened in the streets.

The mosque has been heavily damaged and rows of houses burned to the ground. In places wreckage still smouldered while empty shell cases, unexploded rounds and palm-sized pieces of shrapnel littered the ground. [passage omitted]

Dagestan-Azerbaijan Border Partly Reopened

MM1404134395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 95 First Edition p 5

[Article by Ruslan Ignatyev: "Decision To Partially Open the Border"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] At the Republic of Dagestan's request the Russian Government has given authorization for certain restrictions on crossing the state border with neighboring states to be lifted in this region.

According to competent organs, when events in Chechnya began most of the volunteers who supported Dudayev and took an active part in the fighting came from Dagestan—1,500 people. Mercenaries generally infiltrated Russian territory from Georgia and Azerbaijan via Dagestan. That was why 19 December 1994 the Russian Government adopted the decree "On Measures To Temporarily Restrict the Crossing of the Russian Federation State Border With the Republics of Azerbaijan and Georgia."

The restrictions came into force 0000 hours 21 December 1994, suspending the passage of transport, freight, and commodities from Azerbaijan and Georgia across the Russian Federation state border. The relevant services took additional steps to prevent the import of weapons, ammunition, toxins, drugs, and radioactive substances.

"Our border with Azerbaijan was closed even before events in Chechnya began," Gadzhi-Kurban Gadzhiyevich Shaydayev, Dagestan's permanent representative under the Russian Federation president, said. "All freight into Dagestan has been coming and is still being delivered by a circuitous route—via Astrakhan, Kizlyar, and then by road. Ours is a mountainous republic and it takes at least 13-15 hours to get from Kizlyar to a remote rayon center. With the introduction of the restrictions freight deliveries to the republic cost several times more and a lot of time was spent on transportation. The closure of the airport only aggravated the situation....

"The sea port, which used to operate all year around since it is not frozen in the winter, is still not working. Everything is iced up in the Astrakhan region. Therefore the sea routes have been totally blocked. And with the coming of spring there is an increased need for petroleum products, chemicals, spare parts, and the other semimanufactures needed to conduct agricultural work.

"But the main thing is people. Dagestan has the Samur River, which divides one people into two parts, as it were: Half the Lezgin live in Azerbaijan and half in our republic. When there was no strict regime relatives freely went to visit one another. Now they do not have that opportunity. In early May another problem will arise: Every year thousands of believers go to Saudi Arabia to do their religious duty and, despite the closure of the border, they will nonetheless try to get to the place of pilgrimage by any means. And if this process is not organized, difficulties will arise.

"Taking all this into consideration the State Council of Dagestan and the government asked the Russian prime minister and president to lift certain restrictions on our republic's territory envisaged by the 19 December 1994 decree. We believe that the document of 6 April 1995 matches all our hopes and is the first phase in the normalization of life in this region."

The editorial office was told by the Russian Federation Federal Border Service that freight, motorized, railroad, and maritime transport carrying food, petroleum products, humanitarian aid, and other freight, along with empty vehicles, has been authorized to cross the Russian State Border with the Republic of Azerbaijan through 12 May 1995. This timeframe has been fixed in order that the interested ministries and department implementing the decree to lift certain restrictions are able within the month to formulate a whole series of measures to conduct effective customs, border, and other checks. A fundamental decision on the Russian-Azerbaijani border will evidently be adopted subsequently.

Newly Elected Parliament Begins Work in Dagestan

LD1804181895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1429 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Gadzhi Shamov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Makhachkala, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—The People's Assembly of Dagestan, the new representative and legislative body of state authority in the republic, began its work here today.

Deputies of the People's Assembly are mostly representatives of power and entrepreneurial structures. The 112 members of parliament include 35 deputies of the previous convocation, 23 chiefs of municipal and district administrations, 33 heads of industrial enterprises, concerns and joint-stock companies, eleven bank officials. There are very few members of creative intelligentsia among the deputies: six scientists, teachers and workers in culture, and two physicians. There is not a single worker or rural toiler among the deputies. If the deputies who were lavish in their promises to improve the life of the people while canvassing intend to fulfil their promises, the priority task of the new parliament should be to expand the social base of reform with the participation of entire population.

On the agenda of the People's Assembly are a number of organisational matters. One of them is the election of chairman of the People's Assembly. Mukhu Aliyev, who was chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Dagestan, was unanimously elected by secret ballot as speaker of the People's Assembly.

Aushev Opposes Closing Ingushetia Offshore Zone

MK1804113095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 3

[BUSINESS-TASS report under the "Experiment" rubric: "President Aushev Pleased With 'Ingushetia.'

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The Republic Received 90 Billion Rubles While Offshore Zone Was in Operation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Ingushetia" Most-Favored Economic Zone (MFEZ) is operating successfully and bringing tangible positive results, Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev stated yesterday. In his words, real economic gains have attracted to Ingushetia, over the nine months the MFEZ has been in existence and despite the proximity of military operations in Chechnya, some 2,000 enterprises. Out of this number, 40 are foreign, nearly 100 are from the "near abroad," and the rest are Russian. They became interested through the reduced income tax, and the reduced excise duty rate, customs duties, and value added tax.

President Aushev stressed in this connection that the "Ingushetia" MFEZ is the only offshore zone which, specialists think, has really earned money. All in all, in Russia there are 18 free economic zones including those in Kaliningrad and Nakhodka. Under the Russian Federation Government, the MFEZ was created for a period of one year, and its present status is valid until 1 July 1995.

Ingushetia's development fund received nearly 90 billion rubles while the MFEZ has been in operation. The money has been used to build a hotel, an oil refinery, a printing shop, a confectionery factory, and schools.

However, Mr. Aushev pointed out, despite the positive concrete results of the MFEZ's operation, it is meeting with mixed reaction. In particular, the recent proposal by Russian Federation Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov on closing the offshore zone was prompted by the fact that reports submitted to him contain wrong arguments. The main argument of the zone's opponents is that the MFEZ "steals" major enterprises from Russia, and, as a result, Russian krays and oblasts are not being paid considerable sums toward local budgets. Ruslan Aushev, however, claims that if the MFEZ is closed, entrepreneurs may switch to offshore companies and zones on Cyprus, Malta, and Singapore—and then they will no longer work for Russia at all.

Remaining Russian Investigators Leave Ossetia, Ingushetia

LD2404124595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1216 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz, April 24 (ITAR-TASS)—The last of the operational-investigation groups of the Russian Ministry of the Interior, who were put at the disposal of the provisional state committee for eliminating consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, left the zone of conflict today. The personnel comprising these detachments of investigators' groups, patrols, guards, riot police force "OMON" [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] and special task force left for their former places of deployment.

The Russian detachments had been ensuring safety of civilians and maintaining law and order on a part of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia territory for almost two and a half years, where emergency situation was in force, Foreign Minister of Northern Ossetia Georgiy Kantemirov, told ITAR-TASS today. They solved dozens of criminal cases, freed many hostages and confiscated hundreds of firearms from local residents.

In conformity with an order issued by the Russian provisional state committee, the process of handing over checkpoints and outposts to police bodies of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia is underway these days. This puts new tasks before law protection bodies of the two republics, the minister emphasised.

According to Kantemirov's figures, this will need a daily presence of about 200 republican police officials in Northern Ossetia's Prigorodniy district alone. Their duties will include maintaining law and order, escorting columns of motor vehicles carying migrant people, ensuring safety of harvesting machine drivers during the spring time sowing season.

According to Georgiy Kantemirov, the leadership of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia should hold a dialogue as equals, and find a solution to complicatcated interethnic problems mutually. The Russian provisional state committee, in his opinion, should be a kind of arbiter and an initiator of the developent and deepening of the dialogue.

Speaking of the situation in the North Caucasian conflict zone, the interior minister of Northern Ossetia said that it remains complex, but on the whole under control of the law protection bodies. They continue performing operational and search duties, inspecting transport, and confiscating illegally stored arms, ammunition and narcotics. Meanwhile refugees and forcibly displaced people continue to return to the Prigorod district. Housing and the whole social infrastructure is being restored here.

Work of Nizhniy Novgorod Legislative Assembly Reviewed

954F2109B Nizhniy Novgorod NIZHEGORODSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 28 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Yu. Artamonov, the Legislative Assembly's administrator of affairs, under the rubric "Milestones": "Legislative Assembly Deputies Focus on a Broad Range of Interests: To the First Anniversary of the Oblast's New Representative Body of Authority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *A year ago, on 27 March, a principally new representative body of authority was elected in the oblast: the Legislative Assembly. Of 45 members authorized for the assembly, electing 32 turned out to be enough to get it started. On 12 April, at its first meeting, the legislators decided on organizational matters: They elected the Legislative Assembly's chairman and deputy chairman and formed nine committees and*

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one permanent commission. On 27 November 1994, 12 more deputies were added to the assembly.

Over one year of work the deputies held 15 plenary sessions and adopted about 180 normative acts, thereby creating a certain legal environment on the oblast territory. They are currently actively working on preparation of the oblast charter—one of the basic laws setting forth the rights and rules of living for Nizhniy Novgorod residents on the basis of the Russian Federation Constitution.

The Legislative Assembly carries out its authority mainly through committees and in the committees. In this article I would like to elaborate on how they operate.

I will begin with the Budget, Finance, and Tax Policy Committee, headed by V.A. Trufanov. Why this one and not some other? Because this committee is the conduit for what may easily be called the main function of the Legislative Assembly—forming the oblast budget and overseeing its execution. It is not accidental that this committee has 19 members.

In 1994 the Budget, Finance, and Tax Policy Committee held 14 sessions and considered 82 items, 37 of which were brought up to the Legislative Assembly. They resulted in the respective normative acts, including the law "On the Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast 1994 Budget System."

The focus of the committee's work is to coordinate the activities of bodies of representative and executive authority, financial, tax, and law enforcement organs on oblast territory in matters of budget, finance, and tax policy; identify and analyze the most important problems in the development of budget relations; daily work with the budget in a variety of forms; and stabilization of the socioeconomic situation in the oblast.

The Legislative Assembly recently approved the 1995 budget.

The Economic Policy Committee (chairman S.K. Makov) places its main emphasis on matters of the oblast's socioeconomic development, monetary and credit policy, the operation of the fuel and power generation complex and industry, and reforms in the housing and municipal services sector. It stays in close contact with the administration's Committee on Industry and Investment Policy and the Nizhniy Novgorod Association of Enterprises and Organizations. As a result of this work, on 15 August 1994 the Legislative Assembly adopted Decree No. 71 "On the State of Industry in the Oblast," aimed at industrial recovery, in particular, through the availability of loans, deferral of transfers to the budget, and tax relief.

In keeping with this decree, measures aimed at improving the financial situation of the Gormetrostroy, Nizhniy Novgorod Orbita Plant, Pavlovsk Machine-Building Plant, Voskhod, and ZeFS joint-stock companies were implemented. On 25 October 1994 the Legislative Assembly adopted Decree No. 100 "On 1995 Quotas for Oblast Enterprises, Organizations, and Institutions, for Setting Aside Jobs for Employment of the Disabled and Other Persons in Particular Need of Social Protection."

The Social Policy Committee is very active. Over the period April to December 1994 alone it considered 94 items, on 29 of which the Legislative Assembly adopted decrees.

The following were approved at the initiative and with the support of the committee:

—the oblast fund for social protection of the population, intended for forming financial sources of social support for the most needy categories of the population;

—procedures governing the stay in the oblast of persons permanently living outside the Russian Federation;

—more than 10 normative acts on protection of historical and cultural heritage.

In addition to the items brought up for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly, the committee reviewed a number of the oblast's social programs, including:

—on supporting physical culture and sports in the oblast;

—the program of social support for population groups unable to adjust;

—the program of support for orphaned children;

—the program of prevention of alcohol and drug addiction among children and teenagers;

—the program of restoration work on preserving historical and cultural heritage.

The committee produced a draft law "On Youth," which has been circulated for review among the Legislative Assembly's committees and departments, youth organizations, and experts.

Probably the most difficult is the state of affairs in the oblast's agro-industrial complex. The extremely important sector of the oblast economy—agriculture, the entire set of questions of life support for rural residents, protection of the interests of rural producers, and questions of land relations in the city and the countryside—these are the main lines of work of the Committee on Agrarian Policy and Land Reform, headed by K.V. Purikov.

The committee has guided through the Legislative Assembly a number of decrees aimed at supporting the agro-industrial complex. The foremost issue is the continuation of agrarian reform; creating equal economic conditions for the functioning of all forms of ownership and support for the population's personal plots; implementing measures to raise soil fertility and support selective seed production and pedigree stock-breeding; developing the social sphere and gasification of the countryside; transferring social infrastructure facilities

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to the books of local bodies of authority; and developing small enterprises for the processing and storage of agricultural production.

The Legislative Assembly supported the committee's conclusion that a number of decrees are not being implemented in a satisfactory manner, and proposed that the governor ensure their implementation and consider the question of disciplining those responsible for the failure.

There are interesting developments in the Committees for International and Interregional Contacts (chairman N.V. Zvereva), and Information Policy and the Mass Media (chairman A.B. Bludyshev). They have prepared for adoption by the Legislative Assembly the following draft laws: "On Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast's International, Foreign Economic, and Interregional Agreements," "On Information, Computerization, and Communications in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast," "On the Mass Media in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast," and a number of other normative acts bringing the oblast to a modern level of civilization and helping Russia to integrate into the world community.

There are a lot interesting things in the current work and the 1995 plans of the Committee for Ecology, Natural Resources, and Their Use, headed by V.A. Opolchentsev. The focus of its activities is legislative activities on problems of ecology, environmental protection, creation of natural preserves, and the use of forests and water resources.

The Committee on Legal Policy and Work with Military Servicemen is engaged in purposeful work. In 1994 alone the committee prepared, and the Legislative Assembly adopted, about 15 decrees, among which were:

—on approving the temporary statute "On Material Support for the Activities of the Deputies of the Oblast's Legislative Assembly;"

—on proposals regarding implementation of the Russian Federation law "On Military Duty and Military Service;"

—on preferences with respect to tax on profit for 1994 for enterprises run by correctional labor facilities of the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and enterprises working with correctional labor facilities;

—on approving the rules of the oblast's Legislative Assembly;

—on establishing the honorary title of "Honorary Citizen of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast;"

—on the petition of citizens who own residential homes and land lots on the territory of Rustay township.

The committee reviewed at its sessions and sent to the State Duma proposals and criticisms on 12 draft federal laws, including: "On Defense," "On Military Duty and Military Service," "On Veterans," "On the Main Guarantees of Suffrage for Citizens of the Russian Federation," "On the Status of Judges," and others. Many proposals were incorporated into the final version of the laws.

The committee conducts extensive work with citizens' verbal and written petitions.

The Committee for Local Self-Government and Public Relations, headed by A.N. Zakharov, holds a special place in the Legislative Assembly's work. The committee began functioning in an environment of an almost complete legal vacuum in matters of local self-government; this determined the main directions of its work:

—norm-making;

—organizing interaction between rayon and city bodies of local self-government with the Legislative Assembly and the oblast administration;

—assistance to organs of local self-government in carrying out their authority and functions;

—ensuring enforcement of the principle of accountability of organs of local self-government to the respective local communities, independence within the boundaries of their authority, and oversight of the observance by the state authorities of the constitutional and other rights of self-government bodies. The principle of organizing the system of organs of local self-government was established, and their standardized interpretation and execution ensured. The phase of forming representative organs of local self-government has been completed.

The committee has drafted and distributed to the rayons the statutes on the village elder; on village and township councils; on village, township, and city dumas and land assemblies; and the oblast's administrative and territorial system. It has also carried out preparation work on 21 decrees of the oblast's Legislative Assembly.

The committee participates in the work of rayon land assemblies and seminars conducted by bodies of local self-government. Among the subjects discussed there were questions of budget policy, the role of organs of self-government in forming the local budget, social protection of the population in the environment of the reforms, and practical questions of the work of village elders, soviets, dumas, and land assemblies.

Currently the committee is working on preparation of the law on local self-government in the oblast.

This is the first brief summation of the work of the Nizhniy Novgorod Legislative Assembly's committees. Not everything has gone as planned; not all ideas have been implemented yet. There are a lot of objective and subjective reasons for this. Among the most important is the absence of federal laws on the basis of which the oblast can draft and adopt its own.

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Over the year of work the lawmakers have gained experience, accumulated good potential, achieved the ability to work in concert and coordination, and established normal relations with the oblast administration; therefore there is no doubt that 1995 will be more fruitful for the deputies and will create a normal legal environment in the oblast for the continuing forward movement of the reforms aimed at improving people's life.

At meetings with constituents, deputies can tell you a lot of interesting and amusing things from the practice of their work as deputies. So invite them to your labor collectives and residential clusters, and you will be up to date on the life of the Legislative Assembly and get answers to questions of concern for you.

Murmansk Oblast Administration Cuts Eyed

954F2109A Murmansk POLYARNAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 95 p 1

[Interview with Pavel Sverchkov, chief of the Murmansk Oblast Administration's Department of Control, Personnel, and Work with the Territories, by Ye. Denisenko; place and date not given; under the rubric "In the Oblast Administration": "How Many of You Apparatchiks Are There?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Those following the life of the oblast administration remember that last spring it underwent a considerable reduction in force. Not even a year has passed and once again rumors have been circulating since December regarding further "compression" of the oblast's administrative apparat. Is its staff roster really that "bloated"?

"Not at all," said Pavel Ivanovich Sverchkov, chief of the Murmansk Oblast Administration's Department of Control, Personnel, and Work with the Territories. "According to the information I obtained from our supervisor in the government, we have the smallest administration among all the Federation components.

[Denisenko] Then why two cuts in succession?

[Sverchkov] In April-May of last year we made cuts in the administration: We eliminated the Committee on Industry, Transportation, and Communications, and the Committee on Construction, Housing, and Municipal Services. In January 1994 the administration had a staff of 542, and in May—475. The cuts were done at our own initiative because of the difficult financial situation in the oblast. In the fall, however, the president issued a recommendation to the government to implement cuts in federal organs of authority. The government issued a clear directive to federal administrative organs, and sent a recommendation to Federation components—look into the possibility of cutting expenses on maintenance of administrative personnel.

[Denisenko] But you could say: "Your directive was implemented before it arrived!" and decline the recommendation, could you not?

[Sverchkov] Undoubtedly so. But keeping in mind the oblast's financial problems, we decided to see it through. By the way, the government's recommendation is quite fuzzy. Who is considered an "apparatchik"? Take us here: The executive department, the legal department, the clerk's office, the typing bureau—this is undoubtedly an apparat serving the head of administration and his deputies. But what about the Committee on Education or Health Care? Should we cut the oblast segment to a minimum? But the laws on education and health care envisage the functioning of the oblast segment. I could not get an explanation for this "discrepancy" from the government's legal administration—the law on the civil service has not yet been adopted. In short, we have set up a commission, which worked together with heads of committees and departments, to bring the staff roster into strict conformity with the functions envisaged by the law. We came to the conclusion that we could make further cuts. Since February we have had 436 persons working in the apparat.

[Denisenko] Which departments have been shrunk?

[Sverchkov] For instance, the Food and Agriculture Committee—down to 23 persons. The situation has changed: Agriculture in Murmansk Oblast is in decline; sovkhozes have become more independent; which means there is no longer a need for a large committee. But do you know how many calls we got from the Ministry of Agriculture asking us not to cut their colleagues? We replied: Allocate the money and maintain as large staff in the oblast as you wish. The Committee on the Press has been reorganized into the Press Service. The Foreign Relations Committee has been merged with part of the Committee on Trade, Foreign Economic Cooperation, and Interregional Liaison—their functions were duplicated in some respects. A Committee on Foreign Economic Activities was created; overall, however, the staff has been reduced. Lately, issues involving housing and municipal services are coming to the forefront. Therefore a new deputy to the head of the administration—Ye.I. Moiseyev—was recently appointed, and a committee on the development of social infrastructure has been created, which he will supervise. All social matters, as well as housing and municipal services, are in his hands.

[Denisenko] Where is the logic? In April you eliminated the Committee on Construction, and in February created a new one, with a different name but the same functions?

[Sverchkov] In my opinion, there is a logic to this. The former Committee on Construction was a full-size large administration. And there was a lot to manage: We built a lot in years past. The current committee has five staff members, including the chief. You see the difference? But this is not cut in stone. When the situation changes, the administration's structure will change to keep up with real life.

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* * *

Does this mean that the situation could not be better: Our administration is small but wise, and spends less and less on itself every month? But at the same time the offices of our White House are still fully occupied, and the buildings on Zavodskaya Street and the former DPP [Political Enlightenment House] are not vacant either. The people who occupy these offices are the same bureaucrats. There is no paradox here: The number of local representations of the federal authorities is growing.

Of course, this is not done at the will of the oblast administration, and ostensibly not even paid for with Murmansk Oblast money—the federal authorities order the "music" and pay for it. We all know, however, where the federal budget money is coming from.

Barents Sea Regional Development To Begin Late Apr

LD1304202995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1911 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The first stage of the Barents Sea region's stable development programme, which was approved by the secretariat of the U.N. Programme of Development, will begin at the end of April this year, Russian Foreign Ministry's Director of Press and Information Department Grigoriy Karasin told newsmen today.

"The project's aim is to provide technical aid to administrative bodies at local, regional and federal levels in the creation of favourable conditions and improvement of administrative infrastructure of the region's economic development with maintenance and later improvement of the ecological situation," he said. The main role in the project's implementation is assigned to local administrative bodies of the Murmansk region, in particular, Murmansk State Committee for Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Russian diplomat said.

The U.N.-sponsored project is expected to be completed in five years with five stages to implement it. The first stage is to be financed by a special ecological fund (about 900 thousand U.S. dollars). During implementation of the scheduled plans special attention will be paid to attract foreign and Russian investments.

Udmurt Arrested For Murder of Deputy MVD Minister

MM1804142695 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA/ ITAR-TASS column: "Suspect Detained"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A resident of Udmurtia sought under a federal warrant for the murder of Nikolay Perevozchikov, the republic's deputy minister of internal affairs, and his family, has been arrested.

The Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] reported that the arrest had been carried out by staffers from the local subunit for the struggle against organized crime in conjunction with staffers from the Federal Security Service. The horrific atrocity last October when in the middle of the night attackers murdered the entire Perevozchikov family—husband, wife, son, and daughter—shook not only Izhevsk. An investigation showed that the attackers—members of a local crime group—had hoped that the murder would delay an investigation into their crimes.

Sverdlovsk Oblast's Rossel Intent on Becoming Governor

MK1804121095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Viktor Smirnov, Dmitriy Kamyshev: "The Former Governor Is Tired of Being Speaker"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eduard Rossel, speaker of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Duma, continues to advance toward his much-coveted aim of governorship. On 15 April in Yekaterinburg, a congress of the Rossel-led association Transformation of the Urals was held which officially nominated him candidate for governor. And although the fate of the elections, set by the Oblast Duma for 18 June, is in question (they are opposed by Moscow), the "father of the Urals Republic" has not just once demonstrated his outstanding lobbying capabilities.

Although Eduard Rossel's return to the post of governor will hardly become the same kind of sensation as the proclamation of the Urals Republic, the speaker is giving the organization of these elections no less attention. Rossel has to count only on his own resources because both the federal authorities and the local administration are rather wary of his new initiative.

Nonetheless this caution has not so far manifested itself in any sharp moves by Moscow with respect to Rossel, who has already learned the taste of presidential disgrace. Although the Kremlin, as represented by presidential chief of staff Sergey Filatov, has advised Urals residents not to hurry with the elections, this did not proceed beyond advice. True, the gun of canceling the elections "at the top," which has already been fired once at Maritime Oblast Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, is still in the Moscow authorities' hand. Whether it will fire again depends on whether Moscow reads Rossel's intention to move into the gubernatorial chair as the restoration of his republic idea and whether Rossel himself can convince the president of his faithfulness.

True, the speaker seems ready to apply other highly potent means. The Sverdlovsk Duma has already sent to the Constitutional Court a query over the president's

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edict on a moratorium on elections for administration heads, which is the main legal impediment in the way of gubernatorial elections. And although the court will certainly not manage to consider this case before 18 June, the query can become a subject of bargaining: Rossel has already stated that the Duma is ready to recall the inquiry if Yeltsin calls elections in the oblast through his own edict. Such an obvious pressure on the president, however, can lead to some directly opposite results, and then Moscow's cautious waiting will give way to active counteraction both to the elections and to Rossel himself.

So far the speaker's sole opponent, who is really trying to prevent elections, is Aleksey Strakhov, the incumbent administration head. A few days ago his press service issued a special statement. According to it, if the voting takes place after all, its results may be deemed null and void because the Duma resolution on holding elections contradicts the oblast charter. Under this document, the first gubernatorial elections should be called after coordination with the president and should be held at the same time with elections of deputies to the oblast legislature's house of representatives. Neither conditions, however, has been fulfilled. And although the governor's warning will hardly dampen Eduard Rossel's election enthusiasm, Moscow—should it eventually want to stop the speaker's ascent—could well take Aleksey Strakhov's cue.

Oil Pipeline Fractures in Tyumen

LD2504113795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (Interfax)—On Monday experts from the Nizhnevartovsk Environmental Protection Committee discovered the fracture of an oil pipeline 15 kilometers to the north of Megion, Tyumen region, Interfax was told by the press service of the Ministry for Emergencies.

According to the source, the management of the local oil-extracting company Megionneftegaz concealed the accident that occurred on April 19.

Nobody was hurt in the fracture of the pipeline having the diameter of 530 millimeters. Specialists say worn-out equipment caused the accident. 1200 cubic meters of oil spilled over a territory of 30 hectares. Two rescue teams are operating in the area pumping the oil to a parallel line. The size of the damage is being finalized.

Chita Region Freezes Public Sector Wages

LD1404100395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Apr 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The local administration in Chita region has put on indefinite freeze the wages of those working in the public sector. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned today at the region's financial directorate that the wages of doctors, teachers, and workers in some other branches of industry there, which are financed by the region's and local budgets, will not be increased. Chita finance experts believe that the State Duma, the Federation Council, and the government have again put local authorities in a difficult position by adopting numerous decisions on raising wages, despite the fact that the local authorities have no money. Thus, in Chita region, almost one-half of the expenditure part of the budget is covered by subsidies from Moscow, so there is no point in making decisions on raising wages without serious financial backing from the federal budget.

Transbaykal Legislatures Form Association

MM1704074495 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Apr 95 p 2

["Commentary" by Nikolay Belyy: "Alliance of 11—Resurrection of Far East Republic Idea?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Blagoveshchensk—The idea, long cherished far from Moscow, of a large-scale unification of Far East and Transbaykal legislative organs of power has apparently materialized successfully. The articles of association regarding the formation of an association of these organs were concluded the other day in Blagoveshchensk, and it was joined as founders by the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Maritime and Khabarovsk Krays, Amur, Sakhalin, Magadan, and Chita Oblasts, the Jewish Autonomous Oblast, and Chukotka, Aga Buryat and Koryak Autonomous Okrugs. The association's charter was considered and adopted.

The purpose of the association, as stated in the first points of the articles of association, is to coordinate the work of regions' representative organs to achieve united legislative objectives in the interests of the socioeconomic development of territories east of Siberia, and to ensure coordinated joint participation in the preparation of draft federal laws. On the day the association was formally announced a Maritime Kray Duma decree on preventing the violation of Russia Federation territorial integrity in Maritime Kray was adopted.

In short, the fledgling alliance made its presence felt as loudly as it could. The vogue question of creating, or more precisely recreating, a Far East Republic (modeled on the Soviet buffer Far East Republic of the twenties) was not publicly raised at a session of the assembly of the 11 representative organs. But, judging from the response from local observers, the new "democratic" brainchild is nothing but an acid test of the political resurrection of the old regional alliance. But this accounts for maybe one-third of Russia. Joint coordinated lawmaking is indisputably a good thing, but the affair should not, as is feared in the regions, swing toward separatism, politicking, and the accompanying inevitable power struggle. There are indeed grounds for such fears. Back on the eve of the Amur assembly the local press, which is close to

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"representative circles" of authority, wrote that participants in the association were coming to Blagoveshchensk from all Far East and Transbaykal krays to discuss certain "topical politico-ecological" questions. I do not know about candidates from other territories, but from Amur Oblast, which hosted the assembly, two representatives—both RCP [Russian Communist Party] members—became members of the association's working organs. One is chairman of Amur Oblast Assembly and the other is his deputy, first secretary of Amur Oblast Party Committee....

Far East Official Criticizes Moscow's View of Development

LD1404153495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1330 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, April 14 (Interfax-Eurasia)—"Moscow has a distorted idea of what the Maritime Territorial administration thinks about ways of developing the region," Chairman of the Maritime Territorial Duma Igor Lebedinets told a press conference in Vladivostok on Friday.

The administration and legislators of the Maritime Territory are urging the Russian government to investigate the causes of the socio-economic crisis in the Maritime Territory, he said. He also denied the assertions that the Maritime territorial authorities are juxtaposing the region to the center and "are manipulating local moods."

In his opinion, the numerous commissions arriving in the Maritime Territory from Moscow "are distorting the actual situation" and present wrong information to the federal government. He said in this connection that the Maritime territorial administration had asked First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays to hold a Cabinet conference in the Maritime Territory on the problems facing the region.

At the beginning of the week, Chubays sharply criticized the local leaders for the sharp crisis in the local fuel and energy complex.

He announced that the Maritime Territorial Duma will hold open hearings on the misuse of state subsidies by the former leaders of the joint-stock company Primorskugol in 1994. "The hearings are being prepared by a representative parliamentary commission involving economists and staffers of the law-enforcement bodies," he said.

Vladivostok Ex-Mayor Exonerated, Sues To Regain Office

MK1504122995 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Apr 95 p 19

[Report by Leonid Berres: "Court Action Brought by Vladivostok's Ex-Mayor. Viktor Cherepkov Disagrees With the President"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] KOMMERSANT-DAILY has already reported that Vladivostok Mayor Viktor Cherepkov was accused in March 1994 of receiving a bribe from the chairman of the "Vikhr" association, Vladimir Volkov, and suspended from office for the duration of the investigation. However, Yevgeniy Bakin, a senior investigator in the General Prosecutor's Office—he is known for investigating the case of the maniac and murderer Fisher—decided on 28 November to close the criminal case against Cherepkov because no crime had been committed and simultaneously brought action for abuse of office against the Maritime Kray Internal Affairs Administration leadership.

On 6 December, Viktor Cherepkov personally signed the decree on his entry into office, an office which he kept for slightly more than two weeks. On 23 December, Boris Yeltsin relieved Cherepkov, by his edict, of the position of mayor of Vladivostok, following which the ex-mayor sued to have the edict declared invalid and to be reinstated in office. In the view of former mayor Cherepkov, the president had no right to remove him for the reasons cited in the edict—"a protracted non-performance of duties," and in response to "requests by the heads of administrations of Vladivostok's districts and deputies of the Maritime Kray Duma." In Cherepkov's words, his non-performance of his duties during March and October 1994 was compelled by his unlawful removal and prosecution. Besides, the Maritime Kray Duma, which the president referred to, did not exist at all when the president signed the edict.

In the meantime, officers of the Maritime Kray FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service] arrested, on 31 March, Vladimir Dudin, a former detective officer of the Kray Internal Affairs Administration and now a Kray Tax Police officer suspected of manufacturing the "Cherepkov case." He is currently in the Lefortovo detention center. General Prosecutor's Office employees declined to tell your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent how the investigation is proceeding, saying it was secret. Besides, the former Vladivostok mayor met on 12 April with the Russian president's chief of staff, Sergey Filatov, who supposedly promised Cherepkov that he would punish the culprits who had misinformed Yeltsin regarding the mayor's case, and that he would try to persuade him to revise the edict. The ex-mayor asked the judge to try the case without Cherepkov being present, since his continued presence in Moscow is dangerous—there have been four attempts on Cherepkov's life, for which reason he has had to change addresses every day. The trial, nevertheless, has been postponed until 3 May.

Regions Invest Over R50 Billion in Small Businesses

LD1704132795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1301 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 17 (ITAR-TASS)—Regions in the Russian Federation have

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invested over 50 billion roubles [R] in projects to support small businesses. For this purpose, the largest sums were spent by the Belgorod, Novgorod and Moscow regions as well as the Karelian Republic, Andrey Blinov, consultant of the Analytical Centre at the Federation Council (Russian Parliament upper house), said in an interview with BUSINESS-TASS here on Monday.

He noted that small businesses developed most of all in such regions as the Novgorod, Samara, Moscow, Leningrad and the Tomsk regions as well as in the Komi Republic.

At the same time, the fund for support of entrepreneurial activities and the development of competition at the state anti-monopoly committee appropriated over 24 billion roubles to support small businesses.

Economic Issues

Central Bank Reserve Ruling Seen as Concession to Banks

MK2104102095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 5

[Report by Yuriy Katsman: "The Central Bank Has Lowered Obligatory Reserve Norms"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Events around the reform of the compulsory reserve system have been unfolding rapidly. The day before yesterday, when bankers criticized the Central Bank at a press conference organized by the Russian Banks Association, the Central Bank itself held a session of the Board of Directors, which decided to lower as of 1 May 1995 the norms of the banks' deductions to the compulsory reserve fund. The Central Bank explained this move by a "trend toward financial stabilization." True, this was apparently not the only reason: The Central Bank's previous decision on expanding the reserve basis has drawn too strong protests from the bankers. [passage omitted]

The official press release by the Central Bank says that the lowering of bank deductions to the compulsory reserve fund has become possible "owing to a trend toward financial stabilization." And this is really so. The slowing down of inflation, the fall in the growth rate of the dollar, the growing attractiveness of investments in ruble assets (amid the general decline in financial market yields), and also, as the press release says, the Central Bank's reserve policy, have produced their results. In particular the banks' balance on time deposits has grown considerably (the Central Bank estimates it at 12 trillion rubles). Of course, one can only guess as to which extent the Central Bank's actions have been influenced by protests from commercial banks, but there is no doubt that they have produced their impact. In the past six months this has been a second instance when commercial banks have managed to obtain a substantial alleviation of Central Bank decisions unfavorable to them (the first case was the "one account in one currency only" story). [passage omitted]

Reduction in Banks' Compulsory Reserve Rates Viewed

MM2104121095 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Central Bank Agrees to Concessions Which Are Still Not Enough To Appease the Commercial Banks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago our newspaper (No. 72 dated 19 April) wrote about the serious conflict which has come to a head between the Central Bank of Russia and the commercial banks. As we know, the reason for it is the sharp increase in the rates of compulsory reserves which the banks must have in the Central Bank.

In the previous article the belief was expressed that the Central Bank itself is not sure of the expediency of a significant increase in the reserve rates, which could simply ruin other banks. The belief was proved right: On 19 April the Bank of Russia sent out telegrams announcing the reduction as of 1 May 1995 of the percentage rate of deductions into the reserve funds.

I would recall that the previous rates were differentiated. Banks had to deduct 22 percent of their funds from on-demand and 30-day accounts into the compulsory Central Bank reserves, 15 percent from accounts with between one and three months' notice, and 10 percent from accounts over three months. But the banks were particularly indignant at the need to make 2-percent deductions into the Central Bank reserve from currency accounts, and, what is more, not in currency but in the ruble equivalent, which in fact meant losing those resources because of inflation.

Now these rates are being reduced. For ruble accounts they are 20, 14, and 10 percent depending on the term, and for currency accounts—up to 1.5 percent. The Central Bank's step obviously looks like an attempt to appease the commercial banks, but the aim will scarcely be achieved. For instance, the Association of Russian Banks told me that this symbolic decrease in the rates of compulsory reserves will not avert the threat of mass bankruptcies among banks. And in general the withdrawal of monetary resources will lead to an increase in interest rates on credits, a reduction in taxation deductions on the part of banks into the budget, the collapse of the state bonds market, and a great many other negative consequences.

As has become known, the leadership of the Association of Russian Banks also had a meeting on this subject 19 April with Tatyana Paramonova, acting chairman of the Central Bank. According to Garegin Tosunyan, vice president of the association, both sides tried to understand each other's arguments. In theory the Central Bank is prepared to carry on conducting talks. However, for the time being no extra reductions in the rate of the compulsory reserves are envisaged. T. Paramonova's

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stance as of today is approximately s follows: to introduce the new procedure for reserves and new rates as of 1 May, and then see how the situation develops. Only if it deteriorates seriously will more significant concessions be made to the commercial banks.

Federal Employment Service Chief on Jobless Rate

LD2404105995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1044 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Lidia Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 24 (ITAR-TASS)—An average of 6.6 Russian job seekers claim every single job offered at present, Chief of the Federal Employment Service Irina Milkhina told ITAR-TASS on Monday [24 April].

And this despite the fact that the federal service had a list of 329 thousand job openings in early April, and the number has been growing since, Milkhina said.

The situation varies by regions. Thus, in the Volgo-Vyatskiy economic region, central European Russia, 15 unemployed persons come to claim every single job, in north-western Russia the number is 12.5 per job opening, in the Urals, the Caucasus and the Far East over eight job seekers apply for each vacancy.

The situation is slightly better from this point of view in central Russia, west Siberia and the black earth region, Milkhina said.

On the other hand, the unemployment problem is especially acute in Ingushetia and the Ivanovo region, central European Russia, where 202 and 122 job seekers respectively claim every single vacancy. These regions are rightfully described as "social disaster areas", Milkhina said.

The situation is little better in north Russia's Koryak, Komi- Permyak, and Nenets regions, in the north-western Pskov region near St. Petersburg and in the Caucasian republic of Dagestan, where 40 to 75 jobless citizens claim every single job opening, according to Milkhina.

In spite of these complicated circumstances, the Federal Employment Service has succeeded in rectifying the situation, if not much. Thus, it assisted more than 320 thousand Russian citizens in landing a job in the first quarter of 1995.

Law on State Regulation of Energy Prices Welcomed

MM2104101595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Article by Vyacheslav Goncharov: "Is the State Returning to the Economy? Tariffs for Electricity and Thermal Energy Will Be Regulated"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the appetites of some monopolists are going to be curbed. Hopes in this regard are not pinned on the Antimonopolies Committee. Prices for certain vital, life-sustaining goods are going to be taken under the rigid control of the state itself. The law in question is published in today's issue of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. It goes under the title—"On the State Regulation of Tariffs for Electricity and Thermal Energy in the Russian Federation."

This, of course, is not a departure from basic market principles nor does it mean the curtailment of deregulated prices thanks to which the Russian consumer market is increasingly entering a civilized framework. The state regulates prices and tariffs in many countries, including industrially developed ones. This benefits not only the consumers there but also the producers, who are guaranteed state support above all. Now we too are taking that path because the diktat of monopolists in certain sectors of the economy is, to put it bluntly, intolerable. We experienced that primarily in the prices for electricity and thermal energy.

The rapidly rising tariffs are not only draining our pockets, which are virtually empty as it is, but are also leading to a rise in prices for all the goods and services that we use. Nonpayments are increasing as well.

I think that the state will now be able to halt this unchecked upsurge in prices which are crippling everyone. Henceforth tariffs for electricity and thermal energy supplied by all types of organizations irrespective of organizational or legal form will be subject to state regulation. To put it in simple terms, economically validated limits or a ceiling will be laid down. They will operate for a minimum of three months.

Of course the aim of this regulation is not just to protect consumers but also to create a mechanism to coordinate their interests with those of producers and form a competitive environment in the power industry complex. At the same time the state will be able to provide commercial organizations engaged in the production, transfer, and distribution of electricity and thermal energy with financial resources for production, scientific, technical, and social development by attracting loans, resources from various commercial organizations, and private investments (including from foreign sources). The law also says that the Russian Federation Government "ensures the organization of the financial activity and development of Russia's Integrated Energy System." In short, the producers of "heat and light" are not only not losing out but are actually gaining.

Federal as well as regional power commissions are being created to implement price regulation. They will operate on a common normative-methodological basis approved by the Russian Government. Incidentally, these commissions are prohibited from engaging in entrepreneurial activity.

It can only be hoped that such a market mechanism substructure, which in no way infringes the interests of

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producers or consumers, will be applied in other economic sectors which are still in the monopolists' hands. This is a matter of special urgency given that the growth of wages and pensions is lagging considerably behind the growth of prices at present.

Energy Minister Declares State Support for LUKoil

LD2104151795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax)—Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik has declared unconditional government support for the LUKoil company.

As he addressed the first general meeting of the company's shareholders in Moscow Friday, Shafranik said that the government sought to establish companies with a hierarchical structure in the oil industry. That policy will continue and will never be revised, he said. However, Shafranik said that other companies could be set up to perform other functions.

"The government plays a major role in managing LUKoil. It owns about 80 percent of the company's shares and 45 percent of them will remain federal property until April 1996."

Shafranik said the government was going to gradually reduce its influence on the company under a privatization plan, presidential decrees and other legal acts. In 1995-1996 35.44 percent of the company's shares are to be sold to Russian and foreign investors.

LUKoil President Vagit Alekperov said that LUKoil's financial condition, as well as the condition of the whole industry, could not be described as satisfactory. However, LUKoil's production and financial performance in 1994 reflected not only the negative effects of the Russian economic crisis, but also economic and technical measures taken by the company's management to resist it.

LUKoil last year produced 45.1 million tonnes of oil and refined 19.7 million tonnes and the volume of sales (products paid for) rose by 230 percent to 7,476.5 billion rubles. The net profit grew by 130 percent to 677.9 billion rubles. One and a half trillion rubles of investments were put to use in 1994, 40 percent more than in 1993. The profitability of invested capital stood at 5.6 percent.

LUKoil president also said that the company will continue its market expansion in 1995. He said that an agreement had been concluded on the takeover of a number of oil refineries and wholesale companies in the Urals, the Volga river area, Southern Russia and the Kaliningrad region, which would increase from 15 percent to 18 percent the company's share in oil prospecting and refining in the Russian market, and from 9.8 percent to 11 percent its role in the production and sale of petroleum products.

New Oil Well Maintenance Equipment Promises Savings

MM2504093195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 5

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "The Currency Is Safe and the Wells Are Washed Clean"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to estimates by the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the Russian oil and gas complex is now obliged to buy some 30 percent of its equipment abroad, costing approximately $5 billion a year. And it is hard to make savings. There is no escape, for instance, from the necessity constantly to clean paraffin, sand, and other obstructions out of the pipes at the oil wells.

This is a devil of a job—every six months, you pull a couple of kilometers of pipes out of the well, dismantle them, and, after cleaning, put them back underground. That is the generally accepted method. There is also the expensive American technology: You don't pull anything out or dismantle anything, you wash out the well with the help of flexible metal hoses that reach down for kilometers.

Here the maintenance time is reduced from two weeks to 48 hours, making it 3.7 times cheaper. Considering that, according to Ministry of Fuel and Energy figures, 7,500 wells are idle in Russia because they need washing out—not counting those that are continuing to work, through necessity, less than efficiently—the losses countrywide total some 16.2 million tonnes of oil. Yet the use of the new technology does not require additional outlay, unless you count the fact that the imported device costs a solid $1.5 million.

But apparently we will be able to get by without purchases that would hit our pockets. At present a so-called technological maintenance assembly (ART) is operating in Shchelkovo which, according to Mikhail Geykhman, chief engineer at "Mostransgaz," has astounded the gas engineers with its reliability and high-quality work. Prior to this, the ART has undergone tests in Krasnodar and Kasimov. "Gazprom" and the Ministry of Fuel and Energy Conversion Operations Administration have shown an interest in series production of the ART. The assembly is one-fifth of the cost of the U.S. assembly.

But this case is interesting not only because it has finally proved possible to create the machine that is needed, but also because of the economic mechanism in its development. Contrary to our customs, the design bureau did not receive a ministerial order for the design. The ART was conceived, designed, and manufactured on their own initiative by the "Rikor" private financial corporation, which had studied the market situation and concluded that there is a need for the device and consequently a demand. The ART is one step ahead of our ministerial colleagues. And that means that Russia is beginning to master a system similar to the one whereby new machinery is created in countries with a developed market economy.

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Agrarian Lobby Accused of Economic 'Blackmail'

MM2504084295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 5

[Article by Andrey Korshunov: "Agrarian Blackmail: How It Is Done"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I am not obliged to stand there with a big stick and monitor how money is spent. My job is to extract it"—Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha.

"I am afraid of the agrarians. Each time, they come up with new demands which smack of blackmail"—Economics Minister Evgeniy Yasin.

As many observers justly remark, the distinguishing feature of the agrarian lobby is the absence of complexes. Indeed, if lobbyists from the other sectors experience a certain embarrassment as they try to extract preferential credits and other budgetary appropriations, the agrarians imperturbably squeeze and squeeze. Let us recall that representatives of the agrarian regions attempted twice to secure in the Federation Council the allocation of a preferential credit to the sum of 20 trillion rubles [R]. The lobbyists of the agro-industrial complex do not care how it is to be paid off, which is symptomatic: After all, according to Aleksandr Zaveryukha's apt remark, which has already gone down in history, the country ought to feed its peasants. The agrarian lobbyists did not receive this money, but even so, R3 trillion have already been written off from the rural sector and carried over to the state debt, while some R6 trillion worth of credits has been spread over the next two five-year periods. R13 trillion of budget expenditure for the requirements of the agro-industrial complex, R11 trillion worth of commodity credit for the sowing campaign, and finally there is the special "agrarian" tax of 1.5 percent, "hard won" by the agrarian-industrial complex faction, which is imposed on the country's whole economy.... The condition of agriculture is well known to all: Our native grain fields are markedly inferior to those across the water. However, the field of the agrarian lobby yields crops continuously and most plentifully.

The agrarian policy blueprint submitted recently to the government by the aforementioned Mr. Zaveryukha and his ally Agriculture Minister Mr. Nazarchuk is highly remarkable. This is no longer pressure. It is, as Evgeniy Yasin put it vividly, agrarian blackmail.

Judge for yourselves. So that the country does not find itself "completely dependent on the West for food," it is proposed that the prices of agricultural products be deregulated, those of the main types of material and technological resources be regulated by the state, and those of energy sources be subject to a ceiling, with economic sanctions should it be exceeded. The leaders of the agro- industrial complex demand that state purchase quotas for agricultural produce be set for five years, and that the state- determined prices ensure "compensation for material outlay and provision of an income for the commodity producers." So the taxpayer should meet any expenses of our none-too-efficient agriculture. Finally, the blueprint declares the agro-industrial complex the "main priority" of budget policy, to whose needs at least 15 percent of the expenditure of the consolidated federal and local budgets should be allocated each year.

A question occurs naturally: What is all that money for? Perhaps for land reform? Well, no, the document speaks rather of preserving the situation in this area: [Private] farmers are forbidden to split up their plots, while the state may not privatize land without a decision from a "general meeting of the employees of the enterprise" (!). So the money is for something else. For example, for the transformation of the present structures of the agro-industrial complex "into a single management entity." That is, into a new State Agro-Industrial Committee.

A well-known politician recently compared the agro-industrial pressure group to a battering ram. No, it is not a battering ram. It is a jack. The agro-industrial lobbyists demand money, money, money. These people are calmly and methodically converting the black hole of agriculture into a black hole encompassing the whole economy. Who will stop them, and when?

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International Affairs

Foreign Minister Previews Clinton's 11 May Visit

LD2404134895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 24 (Interfax-Ukraine)—During U.S. President Bill Clinton's forthcoming visit to Kiev a declaration on broadening Ukrainian-U.S. relations, an agreement on Ukrainian commercial rocket flights and other documents are to be signed, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told journalists in Kiev Monday [24 April].

He said that the final schedule of Clinton's visit had not yet been approved and that "Ukraine was expecting the U.S. to respond to its proposals."

According to INTERFAX-Ukraine sources, Ukraine proposed that Clinton's visit be prolonged by one day.

Clinton is to arrive in Kiev on the morning of May 11.

Kuchma: Russia's Fleet Proposals Unacceptable

LD2404163295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 24 Apr 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 24 (INTERFAX-Ukraine)—Ukraine cannot accept Russia's proposals on the Black Sea Fleet issue, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has said.

He told journalists in Kiev today that Ukraine could not grant all of Sevastopol for a Russian naval base.

Kuchma said Ukraine was not to blame for any possible worsening of relations with Russia in recent times. Kuchma said that Ukraine had a firm, consistent position towards Russia providing for recognizing Russia as a strategic partner not only historically and geographically but also economically.

Kuchma said he believed that the main factor aggravating Ukrainian-Russian relations was the Black Sea Fleet issue and the Crimean problem. He added that there was not in fact any fleet issue but there was a territorial issue.

Kuchma said he believed that such a problem could not be resolved by military men. He said that only politicians were capable of finding a solution.

Udovenko Criticizes Kozyrev Statement on Crimea

LD2404135295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 24 Apr 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 24 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's statement on the possible use of force for protecting ethnic Russians abroad "is at least surprising," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Henadiy Udovenko told journalists in Kiev Monday. "The U.N. Charter rejects the use of force in tackling international problems," he said. He also said that the ongoing election race will make statements by many politicians far more radical.

Commenting on the statement by Crimean parliament chairman Sergey Tsekov to the effect that Ukraine violated the international law while tackling the Crimean problem, Udovenko said that "the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is not subject to international law."

He said that during the talks with the chairman of the U.N. Security Council in New York in the middle of April "we recalled the Security Council's statement made two years ago, which condemned the resolutions on Crimea passed by the former Russian parliament."

National Affairs

Kuchma: Aid Needed To Close Chernobyl AES

LD2404134795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1237 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 24 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—"The Chernobyl nuclear power station may be closed by the year 2000 only if the Western countries fulfill certain conditions." Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said this today at the opening of a surgical block at the oblast's clinical hospital no. 1 in Kiev for the victims of Chernobyl.

Leonid Kuchma noted that above all this concerns the social welfare of staff currently working at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, and also construction of the "Sarcophagus-2" cover. At the same time it is also necessary to take account of the fact that Ukraine "cannot be left without alternative sources of energy," the president emphasized. In his opinion, supported by specialists' conclusions, "in place of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, which currently produces three billion kilowatts, it is necessary to construct two gas-fired power stations with the same capacity near the town of Slavutich."

Leonid Kuchma expressed the conviction that "the construction of gas-fired stations, which it is necessary to put into operation at the same time as closing the generating sets of the nuclear power station in Chernobyl, must be entirely financed by the West, which is pressing Ukraine to close the nuclear power station."

One should bear in mind the fact that according to experts' assessments the construction of the gas-fired stations will cost two billion dollars. Another two billion dollars are needed to compensate for the difference in price, because the natural gas delivered to Ukraine from

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Russia is two to three times dearer than nuclear fuel, and Russian nuclear fuel too at present.

Speaking about the problems of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, the Ukrainian president noted that over the years "the Chernobyl misfortune has not retreated". "We can only be concerned that at present more than 6,000 families are residing on contaminated territory in Kiev Oblast," Leonid Kuchma emphasized. He reported that more than 80 trillion karbovantsi have been allocated from the state budget for 1995 for the social welfare of the population which suffered from the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, but that these funds are insufficient. Therefore Ukraine will appeal to the world community for assistance. In the president's opinion, Ukraine, "having saved the world from Chernobyl, has the right to expect understanding and support of Western countries."

Udovenko on Giving G-7 Information on Chernobyl

LD2404140095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 24 Apr 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 24 (INTERFAX-Ukraine)—The G7 is considering Ukraine's application for President Kuchma's participation in the summit to be held in Halifax (Canada).

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told journalists in Kiev Monday that Kuchma applied for participation during his meetings with the G7 leaders in New York during the conference on the prolongation of the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

"We don't lay any claims on a role similar to the one played by Russia in the activities of the G7, but we would like to provide the G7 leaders with first-hand information about the Chernobyl nuclear power plant," said Udovenko.

The G7 summit is to discuss the possibility of making a compensation payment to Ukraine for shutting down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Kuchma announced last week that Ukraine was planning to shut down the Chernobyl plant before the year 2000 and expected industrialized countries to provide it with assistance in doing so.

Ukrainian experts believe that the work to shut down the Chernobyl plant and to build compensating capacities will require an investment of about $4 billion.

Chernobyl Director: No Increased Radiation

LD2504085095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2017 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikita Yermakov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 25 Apr—Sergey Parashin, director of the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power plant], who is here at the congress of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), has told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the equipment at the station was not registering any increase in radiation from the Chernobyl sarcophagus.

"The leakage from the sarcophagus does not exceed 1 percent of the leakage from the operational generating units," he said. "There has not been a single instance of increased radiation in the nine years since the accident. It is easy to verify." He believes that all the reports in the Western media about the leakage from the sarcophagus "are dictated by people's fear of this object."

Speaking about the future of the station, its manager said that at present "the process of coordinating the mutual interests of the international community and the Ukraine is underway. Ukraine sees no technical or economic reason to shut down the Chernobyl station. However, the world community has called on behalf of its population to shut it down." Ukraine is willing to make a reciprocal gesture and talk about the closure of the station if it causes concern. However, this must be a reciprocal process, the results of which must satisfy all sides, Parashin said.

Ministers on CIS Talks, Lack of Progress

WS2404093495 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0048 GMT 22 Apr 95

[Unattributed "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 21—Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov said Friday following a Moscow meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States Defense Ministers' Council that there was no progress made in Black Sea Fleet negotiations.

Shmarov's report follows Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statement that fleet negotiations must be resolved before he visits Ukraine. The rift threatens Russian-Ukrainian political and economic ties.

Shmarov said Ukraine is ready to examine various solutions to the problem.

But the major obstacle hampering final settlement of the issue is Russia's unacceptable position on the status of Sevastopol, Shmarov said. Russia insists that its Black Sea Fleet should be based in Sevastopol, which is unacceptable to Ukraine.

In Shmarov's opinion, repeated postponement of Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine can be largely explained by the fact that the BSF issue is still unsettled.

The defense minister said he hopes the problem will be solved in the near future, thereby removing the last obstacle for signing a comprehensive Ukrainian-Russian friendship and cooperation treaty.

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Shmarov said at the meeting participants discussed a wide range of issues, including prospects of further development of military cooperation between the CIS member countries, establishing a military-technical committee attached to the Defense Ministers' Council, provision of retired servicemen and their families with housing, setting up a Joint General Chief-of-Staff's Committee and establishing of a coordinating committee on a joint air-defense system of CIS member countries.

"Both sides are to respect territorial integrity of one another and confirm the inviolability of the existing frontiers," said Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's acting prime minister. Marchuk summed up Friday other Ukraine-Russia discussions.

Signing wide-ranging agreements and Yeltsin's visit to Kiev, scheduled for the first half of 1995, depend on finding a solution to the Black Sea Fleet problem, Marchuk confirmed. Yeltsin said if Ukraine does not comply with Russia on this matter, then Russia will reconsider some current economic and financial agreements with Ukraine.

Shmarov said a decision was made to establish a military-technical committee to coordinate military cooperation between CIS member countries and a coordinating committee on joint air-defense system.

Ukraine commonly modernizes available military equipment instead of purchasing new arms, Shmarov said. Therefore, Ukraine will be able to save a lot of money due to military-technical cooperation with its CIS partners.

The Ukrainian delegation did not take part in discussions on organization of peace-keeping operations in CIS countries, specifically, in Tajikistan. Three Ukrainian army officers are currently acting as military observers in war-torn Tajikistan.

Arbiter May Work on Black Sea Fleet Issues

LD2104170495 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1535 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—"Virtually all issues, except for those related to the Sevastopol sea base and its location, have been constructed [as received] and could be put down on paper," Valeriy Shmarov, deputy prime minister and defense minister of Ukraine, told a news conference on the outcome of a regular session of the Council of Defense Ministers of the CIS member states that was held in Moscow on 19 April. Valeriy Shmarov led Ukraine's military delegation at the session. The negotiations on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet have been continuing for approximately three years; however, they cannot last forever, the defense minister believes. "It is not ruled out that an appeal will be made to the world community and world organizations in order to have an independent arbiter," Mr. Shmarov said.

To the question "Will uncertainty at the Black Sea Fleet negotiations influence President Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine?" the defense minister replied that uncertainty influences the creation of favorable prerequisites for the visit.

For two days the defense ministers of the CIS member states were discussing issues of deepening and improving military cooperation between the CIS member states.

The meeting resulted in the signing of an agreement on setting up a coordinating committee for air defense issues under the council of ministers, and a military and technical committee for coordinating cooperation of defense ministries of the CIS member states in this sphere.

The issue of setting up a committee of chiefs-of-staff of the armed forces of the CIS member states under the council of defense ministers remained unresolved. The documents on the issue were submitted for updating and the issue, according to Valeriy Shmarov, will be considered at the next sitting of the defense ministers of the CIS member states.

Udovenko Dismisses Meshkov's Appeal to Yeltsin

LD2404142895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1409 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 24 (ITAR-TASS)—Former Crimean President "Yuriy Meshkov may appeal to whoever he likes because he will be acting as a private person," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said, commenting on Meshkov's appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

In his appeal, Meshkov asked the Russian leader "not to allow arbitrariness and protect the universally recognised, inalienable civil, political, ethnic, religious, and linguistic rights of the inhabitants of Crimea."

However, Udovenko believes that "there are no violations of human rights" in the Crimea. This has been confirmed by numerous foreign observers who have lately visited the Crimea, he added.

Udovenko stressed that the "whipping up of tension will not facilitate the stabilisation process in the Crimea."

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According to Meshkov, "Ukraine in Crimea continue to rudely trample on internationally recognised democratic standards and elementary human rights. The Russian and Russian-speaking citizens of Crimea, who make up a majority of the population of the peninsula and who are a national minority in Ukraine, are feeling the infringement of their right to self-determination with regard to the chosen form of their state system within the framework of Ukraine. At present, Ukrainian authorities have practically begun to eliminate the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea elected by its entire people".

In March 1995, the Ukrainian parliament abolished Crimean Presidency and the Constitution.

Over the past weekend, a commission began operating in the Crimea to eliminate the presidential services. Representatives of the agency set up by the Crimean Government for the purpose on Saturday tried to put under lock and seal the offices of the president's advisers and aides, but the president's staff members who have remained with him in the parliament building around-the-clock for the past two months disrupted their attempts.

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Kazakhstan

Russian Groups Unite To Oppose Nazarbayev

MM2404133195 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Dokuchayev: "Russian Party Against Nazarbayev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty—N. Nazarbayev's highly elaborate political intrigue has pushed Kazakhstan's Slavs into a unification that has been maturing for a long time: They have concluded an agreement on coordinating their actions on political, economic, and social questions. The agreement was signed by leaders of the "Harmony" ["Lad"] movement, "Russian Community," and Cossack organizations.

The first step on the road of joint actions was a decision on the need to form political parties in Kazakhstan with the aim of securing equal political and economic rights for citizens irrespective of nationality and defending and developing the culture and traditions of the Slav and Russian peoples as a component part of the multiethnic people of Kazakhstan. An action group was formed to prepare constituent and program documents and the party's constituent conference.

Those attending the assembly were unanimous in their negative appraisal of the referendum on extending N. Nazarbayev's term of office until the end of the year 2000. The obvious disregard of a most important problem for the Russian and Russian-speaking population—that of the state language—provoked the Kazakhstanis to send an open letter to N. Nazarbayev, which says, in particular:

"We are aware that the state machine is doing everything to predetermine a positive result to the referendum. In reality, the question that you ask splits society and destabilizes the socioeconomic situation. The people see it as nothing but an attempt to secure 'reelection' without answering the questions which most trouble people."

Officials Arrested; General 'Purge' Continues

954F2131A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Sergey Kozlov: "Bureaucrats Arrested; Newspapers Closed: General Purge Continues in the Republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A series of arrests of the highest officials has caused a wave of rumors and conjectures in the Kazakhstani capital, resulting in the logical question: Who is next? Following the recent arrest of N. Bazarov, chief of the East-Kazakhstan administration of internal affairs, the former chairman of the republic's National Bank, Galym Baynazarov, was also arrested. Bazarov was charged with attempting to bribe Kazakhstani Minister of Internal Affairs Bulat Bayekenov, who refused the offer. Regarding Baynazarov, the situation is more complex and confusing.

The official version goes like this. In his capacity as National Bank chairman, Baynazarov helped a commercial bank in Dzhambul to obtain a loan on very favorable terms. This was in the winter of 1992, and the loan amount at the time was 4 billion rubles [R]. But in addition to the official version, there are numerous unofficial ones. Here is one of the most plausible. At the time, the former chairman permitted what President Nazarbayev later called a "credit bacchanalia," in which loans were issued by the National Bank with unusual ease and were never repaid. It is no longer possible today to calculate the total amount of damages from this policy. But Baynazarov's chief "sin" apparently was not limited to this. Most likely, loans at the time were being issued, as they say, to the "wrong people," and those shunned at the time, now in power, decided to get even. (Interestingly, Galym Baynazarov is considered here the "godfather" of the national currency—the tenge—since his signature is on all banknotes of the first—1993—issue.)

The circumstances of Galym Baynazarov's arrest are interesting. Since he was until lately a financial adviser to Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin, Baynazarov was arrested on a warrant personally issued by Kazakhstan's General Procurator Zharmakhan Tuyakbayev, while the prime minister remained completely unaware of the event. "I learned of this fact from journalists," explained Kazhegeldin, and refused to comment any further.

Neither was the current National Bank chairman Daulet Sembayev apprised. "I learned what happened only from reading the newspapers. I have no knowledge of the pretext for the arrest, but by itself the fact is upsetting and seriously harms the National Bank's standing."

Literally the next day, however, Dualet Sembayev's two deputies were arrested, which put him in a rather delicate position in this entire situation. In addition, two high-ranking officials in the Main Administration for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption were arrested, as well as two ranking officers in republic customs. So far their names have not been revealed. There is talk about show trials of some law enforcement structures' top officials and the mafiosi associated with them.

Of particular interest for everyone, however, is the investigation into the case of abuse of official position by Serikbolsyn Abdildin, former speaker of the parliament of the 12th convocation. He is accused of building luxurious—even by local standards—homes in the capital's suburbs and buying apartments for his relatives. This case stirred up interest also because literally two days before the summons to the procuracy, the opposition political bloc Respublika, headed by Abdildin,

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adopted an appeal to the people and the president of Kazakhstan which contained sharp criticism of both Nazarbayev personally and the upcoming popular referendum.

The purge is being conducted not only among high-ranking officials mixed up in shady money swindles and bribery, but in other spheres as well. The KAZAKHSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper (not to be confused with the oldest local official mouthpiece, KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA), in existence for more than a year and a half, had a habit of shocking a considerable part of its readership by frankly incendiary materials in every issue. The publisher—former instructor of Marxism, Professor Aldan Aimbetov—was nicknamed "Dr. Goebbels" after the very first issue. In addition to the idea of exposing persons with suspicious names who are trying to drive a wedge between Kazakhs and Russians, the professor wanted as soon as possible to clear the ancient Kazakh land of foreign-born people, especially "persons of Near East origin." Demands to rein in the publisher, brought up repeatedly every time after the publication another scandalous issue of KAZAKHSKAYA PRAVDA, were simply ignored. But the latest issue forced bureaucrats to face an inarguable fact that required immediate reaction. This time Aldan Aimbetov wondered why the Kazakh youth still has not begun pogroms of Zionist organizations entrenched in Kazakhstan. After that, KAZAKHSKAYA PRAVDA was closed down. And quite correctly. Which is more than one can say about the case involving RUSSKIY VESTNIK—a newspaper published in the capital's neighbor city of Taldy-Kurgan. This publication gravitated toward the "Cossack issue." And since Cossacks here were outlawed not too long ago, the newspaper found itself in the same boat. The court has not yet issued a final ruling on the newspaper's case, however.

A thriller-type story happened to the Pavlodar newspaper ZVEZDA PRIIRTYSHYA. A great part of the printing run—about 40,000 copies—of the issue with an article containing sharp criticism of the president and the referendum was distributed before members of oblast administration read it. The bureaucrats who raided the printing shop found only about 1,500 copies. Urgent steps were taken. A special task force was dispatched to confiscate the "seditious" issue from subscribers' homes. Another 2,000 copies or so were recovered this way. This is where the operation ended—the remaining copies were not to be found. Now all that remains is to decide on the fate of the newspaper.

Soskovets: Situation at Baykonur 'Critical'

LD2404165095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 24 (Interfax)—The situation is critical at Baykonur space launch site (Kazakhstan) and the nearby town of Leninsk where its servicing personnel live, speakers at a meeting chaired by First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets said in Moscow on Monday.

Baykonur Chief Aleksey Shumilin said that military and civilian space programs were being put under threat and repair and maintenance of the site's facilities had come to a halt because of poor financing.

For his part, Leninsk Administrator Gennadiy Dmitriyenko said Moscow has failed to remit even a single rouble from the 161 million rubles it promised to allocate for town development this year. Half of the local infrastructure is in need of capital repair and workers of the non-industrial sector have started to leave in droves because of going unpaid since January.

Their apartments are being bought up by criminal elements which has led to a sharp rise in crime rates in Leninsk, Dmitriyenko said.

Russia is committed to pay an annual $115 million to Kazakhstan under a 20-year leasing agreement on Baykonur, which also covers the town of Leninsk.

Tajikistan

Further on Talks With Tajik Islamic Opposition

Russian Official on Lack of Progress

LD2404170095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 24 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 24 (INTERFAX)—After a break on Sunday, consultations continued in Moscow on Monday between the delegations of Dushanbe and the Opposition Islamic Renaissance Movement.

Director of the Foreign Ministry's Third Department for Asia Yuriy Kotov told INTERFAX on Monday that the discussion concentrated on the first item on the agenda—urgent measures to make the implementation of the ceasefire agreement more efficient, and the prolongation of this agreement.

He said that the participants in the talks which began on April 19 "have set forth their proposals on the issue and are currently coordinating them."

He said the consultations might finish "today or tomorrow". "However, other variants are possible, too. Everything will depend on how matters go," he said.

He announced that "many common approaches have been laid to a number of problems, although the main problems still remain unsolved."

"The most important thing now is to prolong the interim agreement on ceasefire which is expiring on April 26," said Kotov. "The future presence of U.N. observers in Tajikistan will depend on this," he went on to say. "In addition to this, the agreement on the prolongation of

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the ceasefire agreement is directly connected with the second subject of the consultations: the agenda of the 4th round of the full-scale inter-Tajik talks," said Kotov.

He explained that "both sides had reached the preliminary understanding that the forthcoming round is to focus on the fundamental principles of Tajikistan's constitutional set-up and the involvement of the opposition in the country's political life."

He said that before the beginning of the Moscow consultations, many expected them to evolve into the 4th round of the talks. "Now I have certain doubts about such a prospect," he continued.

Speaking about the venue of the 4th round, he said that it should not necessarily be held in Moscow.

"If the question of holding the talks in Moscow becomes the only obstacle complicating the talks, we shall not be overly insistent," he said.

"The venue of the talks is not the question of cardinal importance. The most important thing is to ensure that the political dialogue and the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict continue," he said.

He noted, however, that during the inter-Tajik talks in Islamabad, Moscow was chosen as the venue of the 4th round. "We wish the earlier reached agreements were not broken into fragments," he said.

"Moreover, neither side has presented any official objections against holding the talks in Moscow," said Kotov.

Cease-Fire Extension Favored

LD2404194495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1926 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 24 (INTERFAX)—The Tajik Government delegation to inter-Tajik consultations in Moscow has come out in favor of indefinite extension of the cease-fire agreement, the Tajik Embassy in Russia told INTERFAX today.

Dushanbe and the opposition Movement for Islamic Rebirth of Tajikistan are currently discussing, under international mediation, problems concerning urgent measures for efficient implementation of the cease-fire agreement and a halt to other hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border and in Tajikistan. Dushanbe and the opposition have also discussed measures for preventing the agreement's violation and for its possible extension.

The inter-Tajik consultations will continue on April 25.

Opposition Silent on Extension

LD2404205495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2046 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—The United Nations Organization (UN) is waiting for a Tajik opposition response to a UN-proposed extension of ceasefire after April 26 to decide whether to continue its peacekeeping mission in Tajikistan, Joe Sills, official representative of the UN secretary-general, said on Monday [24 April].

He said the UN could confirm that the Tajik Government had agreed to extend ceasefire after April 26. The UN mission in Tajikistan can continue working there only in case if UN secretary-general Butros Butros-Ghali makes sure that the ceasefire is being observed in the country.

However, the Tajik opposition still keeps silence on the issue. The UN secretary-general's special envoy in Tajikistan Ramiro Piris Ballon is now in Moscow trying to negotiate the extension in the course of separate meetings with representatives of conflicting sides, according to Sills.

Tajik Opposition's Control of Commanders in Doubt

MM2504110995 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Aleksandr Pelts: "The Opposition Advances New Demands. But Everything Is as Before on the Tajik-Afghan Border—an Undeclared War Is Being Waged"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the past week five attempts at an armed breach of the border were thwarted in the sectors of the Group of Russian Border Troops in Tajikistan alone. The last attempt was made during the night of Sunday-Monday 23-24 April. Several violators were killed, and the rest were driven back over the Pyandzh.

The continuation of armed provocations on the border at the time of the opposition leaders' consultations which have begun in Moscow with a Tajik government delegation attests to the opposition's probable loss of control over its own field commanders. Particularly in Gorno-Badakhshan, where gunmen, according to information, are preparing to attack border troop transport columns proceeding to Khorog.

The opposition is also planning a somewhat unique "offensive" in time for the fourth round of talks. During the present consultations its leaders have advanced new demands in addition to the ones already proclaimed. The opposition is demanding an increase in the number of UN international observers, broader opportunities for members of the Joint Commission to act, television and radio airtime for them, and the setting up of contact telephones by which citizens of Tajikistan would be able anonymously to report instances of violations of mutual accords. But let us recall that two issues remain its basic demands—the involvement of the Russian border guards in the temporary cease-fire agreement and the

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withdrawal of 350 Tajik servicemen from the conflict zone on the territory of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

But, be that as it may, it is hard to combine a dialogue with ongoing fighting on the border. The opposition seems to be seeking a "cease-fire" only unilaterally by means of talks. But maybe these and many other problems will nonetheless be resolved during Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmonov's meeting with Said Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Tajikistan Islamic Revival Movement. Preliminary consent to this meeting has already been secured.

Premier Rules Out Coalition With Islamic Opposition

BR2404150695 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 24 Apr 95 p 24

[Interview with Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov by Francisco Herranz in Dushanbe; date not given: "Tajikistan Will Not Be a Second Afghanistan"—first paragraph is EL MUNDO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Tajik prime minister talked about the talks under way between his government and the Islamic opposition and ruled out the creation of a coalition government.

[Herranz] How are the talks going between the representatives of your government and the delegates from the Islamic opposition?

[Karimov] The talks are continuing, but with great difficulty. Our government wants the first issue of the negotiations to be the extension of the cease-fire. The opposition does not agree and is demanding to first look into the other points: annulling the results of the presidential and parliamentary elections; forming a coalition government; and withdrawing Russian troops from certain regions in our Republic.

[Herranz] Is it possible to form a coalition government?

[Karimov] It is impossible. It does not make sense to talk about it. To form a coalition government it would have been necessary for the opposition to participate in February's parliamentary elections.

[Herranz] However, the opposition parties, such as the Democratic Party and the Islamic Rebirth Movement, are outlawed.

[Karimov] On more than one occasion our government has said that any candidate from any political party could take part in the elections. If it had really had popular support, the opposition would have taken part in the elections. However, not even the leaders stood. There has been too much bloodshed.

[Herranz] In the European press it has been written that Tajikistan will end up being a "second Afghanistan." Do you agree?

[Karimov] It is impossible for that to happen because there is a Collective Security Treaty in the Commonwealth of Independent States and because we have good relations with the Afghan Government, although unfortunately Kabul does not control the situation in the northern part of the country.

This is something said by people who have an interest in destabilizing the situation because Tajikistan has a magnificent strategic position and it is lying along the drug and arms trafficking route. [passage omitted]

Russian Troops Unearth Ammunition Cache in Pamirs

LD2504082695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0804 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—A major cache with ammunition was unearthed on Monday [24 April] evening by Russian borderguards from the Khorog border detachment in the Viskharvskoye Gorge, Pamirs, one of strong points of the Tajik opposition, ITAR-TASS learnt at the press centre of Russian border troops in Tajikistan on Tuesday.

The cache contained 57 mines to 82mm mortars as well as other ammunition.

Commenting on the situation at the Tajik-Afghan border, a representative of the press centre said that it remains difficult but, nevertheless, is under control of borderguards. There were no major violations of the border on the past day.

However, the Tajik opposition continues to mass its forces in northern provinces of Afghanistan, bordering Tajikistan. It is quite probable that field commanders adopted a wait-and-see policy for the time of the inter-Tajik consultations which are now in progress in Moscow, the representative said.

OSCE Envoy Arrives on Human Rights Mission

LD2404144295 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today, Mrs. Audrey Glover, the director of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe's [OSCE] office for democratic institutions and human rights in Warsaw, paid a visit to

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Dushanbe. Her visit is connected with the decision to open an office of the permanent department of the OSCE in Tajikistan, taken on 9 March.

This international organization's council in Tajikistan has asked its Warsaw bureau to arrange a study of events and human rights observance in the republic because the United Nation's High Commission for Refugees has ceased its work in Tajikistan. The aforementioned organization [OSCE] also demands that the International Committee of the Red Cross be allowed to study prisoners' work and living conditions.

Mrs. Glover will have meetings with the Justice Minister Shavkat Ismoilov, Khalifabobo Homidov and Karim Yuldoshev, the state advisers of the country's president, as well as the republic's Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov, and Safarali Kenjayev, the chairman of the Supreme Council's committee on rights and human rights. [passage omitted]

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Armenia

President Attends Genocide Remembrance Ceremony

NC2404154495 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Even at this hour Tsisternakabert [hill on which genocide monument is located] is crowded. Since early morning the residents of Yerevan and foreign guests have been coming here to pay their respects to the memory of the victims of the great genocide of the Armenians which was perpetrated 80 years ago. [passage omitted]

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian and his wife; Catholicos of All the Armenians His Holiness Garegin I; Chairman of the Supreme Council Babken Ararktsian; Prime Minister Hrand Bagratian; members of the parliament and government; representatives of the Armenian Army; diplomats accredited to Armenia and guests visited the monument at 1000.

A museum on the Armenian genocide was formally inaugurated. Armenian Vice President Gagik Harutyunian spoke at the ceremony. His Holiness Garegin I consecrated the new museum. Flowers and wreaths were then placed at the monument. Catholicos of All the Armenians Garegin I held a requiem in memory of the innocent victims. [passage omitted]

Government Plans To Restart Nuclear Reactor

LD2504103995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0945 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Nikita Yermakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Armenia is planning to restart one power generating unit at its nuclear power station shut down after the 1988 earthquake, station director Suren Azatyan told ITAR-TASS.

Suren Azatyan who is attending a conference of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) in Paris said the exact date had yet to be set for restarting the reactor.

"For the time being, we are working on one of the two available units. We have mobilised all forces to secure its faultless operation. We attach great importance to the level of safety. For example, we needed this unit very much last winter, and we were able to restart it. But we wanted to ensure maximum security and safety," Azatyan said.

Asked about the level of the nuclear power station's seismic security, Azatyan said, "We have been able to remove all doubts concerning this over the past two years. We checked and re-checked everything. I made sure that the project was fully feasible, and what we did subsequently, further increased the level of the station's seismic safety".

Azatyan declined to say how much more electricity the inhabitants of Armenia will receive after the first bloc is restarted. Now, electricity is supplied to homes for two hours a day at best.

Azatyan said it was impossible to give exact figures at this point because the power generating unit will be restarted and electricity generation will be raised to capacity gradually.

Armenia's membership in WANO, approved by the current conference in Paris, will enable the republic to consult that organisation as well. Armenia cooperates with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Russian specialists who designed and built the station, Azatyan said.

"With new access to international experience through WANO, we shall feel more confident about our new decisions," he said.

Gukasyan Views Russian Duma Hearings on Nagorno-Karabakh

954F2130A Yerevan VREMYA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russia Recognizes Its Responsibility for the Fate of the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arkadiy Gukasyan, minister of foreign affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, evaluated as positive the results of the completed public hearings in the State Duma of Russia on the situation in the Karabakh conflict zone.

Speaking at a briefing in Stepanakert yesterday, the head of the foreign policy department of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic observed that this fact testifies to Russia's recognition of its historical responsibility for the fate of the region. The minister reported that a delegation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic had attempted to substantiate at the hearings the historical and legal aspects of Nagornyy Karabakh's right to independence and had also familiarized the participants with the viewpoint of Stepanakert officialdom concerning the paths of a settlement of the conflict.

In Gukasyan's opinion, Azerbaijan's negative attitude toward the hearings shows Baku's reluctance to seek constructive paths of a solution of the problem.

As we know, the authorities of Azerbaijan evaluated the parliamentary hearings in Moscow as interference in this republic's internal affairs.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Receives Russian Duma Delegation

NC2404182695 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Heydar Aliyev today received today a Russian State Duma delegation headed by Sergey Baburin. A report by Garanfil Khalilova:

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[Begin recording] [Khalilova] Speaking on his delegation's impressions of the visit to Armenia, to our republic's Nagorno- Karabakh region, and to six regions and refugee centers, Sergey Baburin said that the Russian guests are uneasy at the continuation of the present grave, deadlocked situation. In their views, the peace talks should speedily produce real results. For this purpose, the Russian deputies said that a year ago they organized a photography exhibition and held a news conference at the Russian State Duma in order to garner support for Azerbaijan. They said they will continue their efforts in this direction as people's opinions and conceptions change gradually.

Concurring with the view that opinions take shape over years on any issue, the president noted that despite every effort, there are fewer people who support Azerbaijan in Russia than who support Armenia. Regardless of differences of opinion on certain disputes while forging relations with Russia, we intend to pursue the friendly traditions with this neighbor which is one of the largest and most powerful countries in the world. It is not difficult to understand these conflicts. Had Russia properly ended the Armenian- Azerbaijani conflict before the dissolution of the USSR, there would have been no ground for complaints and all other national disputes engendered by the Karabakh problem would not have placed Russia in an impasse today. [passage omitted]

Sergey Baburin said that the deputies were fully satisfied with the care and concern shown for Russians living in Azerbaijan. However, a similar thing could hardly be said about Armenia where 12,000 Russians live and where the Russian schools are being closed down. That the 50th anniversary of the WWII victory will not be marked in Armenia is also deplorable.

Heydar Aliyev noted that he does not consider such treatment of Russians as being out of ordinary in Armenia, which aims at forming a single-nation republic. He also drew the guests' attention to the fact that at present not a single Azerbaijani has remained on their ancestral lands in Armenia, where 70 percent of the population was Azerbaijani at the turn of the century. As opposed to Armenians, the Azerbaijanis are loyal to internationalism. Be they Russians or any other nationality, they are not considered to be emigrants but the country's citizens with full rights. As regards the 50th anniversary of the victory, it is the achievement of not only of Russians but all the peoples living in the former USSR. Therefore, Azerbaijan, which lost more than 400,000 sons and provided 70 percent of the oil to the front, will mark the victory day as a historic day where the glorious past deeds can become an example for the present generation. [end recording]

Urges Action on Karabakh Dispute

LD2404190395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, April 24 (ITAR-TASS)—Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev said Russia, as a great state, could and should play more constructive role in the settlement to a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the long-disputed Nagorno-Karabakh area. The key to the problem solution is in Moscow, he said on Monday. Aliyev spoke before a group of Russian lawmakers on visit here.

Russian lawmakers, headed by Sergey Baburin, leader of the Russian Popular Union, arrived in Baku on Sunday after they had visited Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh to study the situation in the conflict zone.

"No other state, whatever (political) weight it has, will be able to perform this convoluted task, except Russia," Aliyev said. He said he believed that Russia was interested in "stamping out the fire both in the region and at its (Russian) southern frontiers, and stabilizinbg the overall situation in the Caucasus". In his view, this was also in Russia's strategic interests.

Describing his vision of ways to settle the conflict, Aliyev said "it goes without saying that rights and security of Armenians (living) in Nagorno-Karabakh must be ensured". At the same time, he stressed "Azerbajian will never agree with losing 20 per cent of its lands".

Azerbaijan "considers its (Nagorno-Karabakh) liberation, the return of over one million refugees (to the area), as well as restoring territorial integrity and inviolability of the republic's frontiers as its legal right", Aliyev said.

"We want to achieve it by peaceful, political means", the Azerbaijani president said. The war between the two Transcaucasian republics which has been lasting for over seven years, is pointless, as it has not brought anything except sufferings to the two peoples.

At the same time, Aliyev said he would like to achieve more significant results in the talks process which had already led to 11-month-long ceasefire in the conflict area. He meant that a broader political agreement and peace treaty should be signed between the two neighboring republics.

The Azerbaijani president also said he was concerned over the strengthening Russian-Armenian military alliance. In his view, joint military exercises to be hold on the Armenian territory will not help stabilize the situation in the region. "What it is all for if we are members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and parties in the treaty on collective security", Aliyev said, supposedly referring to demonstration of military strength in close vicinity of Azerbaijani borders.

Key to Settlement 'in Moscow'

LD2504121895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, April 25 (Interfax)—Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev is convinced that the key to the Karabakh settlement can only be found in Moscow.

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"No one else has more opportunities to influence the conflict than Russia, and no one else is more interested in settling it than Moscow, as the conflict is taking place in the direct vicinity of the Russian border," Aliyev told a delegation of Russia's State Duma led by Chairman of the All-People's Union of Russia Sergey Baburin in Baku on April 24.

He announced that since the Karabakh conflict had flared up seven years ago, 25,000-30,000 Azerbaijanis had been killed.

He also said that Baku was ready to guarantee the security of the Karabakh Armenians and to preserve the humanitarian corridor between Karabakh and Armenia on the condition that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is preserved and the cities of Shusha and Lachin are freed.

He said that Azerbaijan was determined to broaden relations with Russia. "This is the strategic course of our policy," he said.

At the same time, he expressed concern about broadening military cooperation between Russia and Armenia as evidenced by the recent joint military exercises.

"This does not fit into the concept of the CIS collective security treaty," said Aliyev. On the one hand, Armenia is in a state of war with Azerbaijan and occupies about one-fifth of its territory, while on the other, Russia has concluded an agreement on a military union and military bases with it, he went on to say.

"I think such a policy is erroneous," said Aliyev.

Baburin said that in the 1970s-80s, Armenia was populated by 78,000 ethnic Russians. Now their population has shrunk to less than 12,000. He also said that all Russian schools had been closed down in Armenia and that even Russian classes were being closed down.

In this connection Aliyev accused Armenia of trying to create a mono-ethnic state. He also reminded his audience that at the end of the 1980s, all Azerbaijanis were banished from Armenia. He said that Azerbaijanis accounted for 70% of the population which lived in the territory where Armenia currently lies.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Economy, Abkhazia

LD2404122995 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0518 GMT 24 Apr 95

[Interview with Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani in Tbilisi—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Oniani] Good morning. We present an interview with Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state and chairman of parliament.

We should probably start the interview with an economic review again, especially since last week was very interesting in this respect. The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, visited Georgia and signed economic and cultural agreements. Of course, this visit is interesting not only from the economic point of view but also the political one. There was also a visit by U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary William White, which was also very important for economic life in Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] Thank you and good morning. Economic revival and the establishment of market relations in the country cannot be perceived without the existence of diverse and extensive foreign economic links. That is why regional cooperation is very important. We should look at last week's events in the life of the republic, which you have already mentioned, from that angle. The visits to Georgia by Iranian President Rafsanjani and U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary White and the talks with them show that a foreign economic policy marked by intensive economic relations is a lever that should give us a realistic opportunity to use the country's advantageous geopolitical position correctly and productively.

The documents signed with the Iranian president and government officials—and you know that it was a high-ranking delegation that included several leading ministers—are undoubtedly creating good prospects. The Iranian side is ready to use our industrial potential and routes, to set up joint enterprises and take specific steps to fund very important projects. Developing relations with them makes the idea of an Eurasian corridor even more realistic. We can benefit greatly from this. In recent days I discussed this subject a lot, for example, in Poti, Batumi, and after returning to Tbilisi. The prospects are really considerable. Suffice it to say that Iran has millions of goods to transport to and from Europe. All this can be done through Georgian territory. This will lead to a range of benefits, including revenues, creation of a good infrastructure, jobs, and so on.

The visit by the U.S. deputy energy secretary is a logical continuation of regular U.S.-Georgian relations at government level. It should lead to the rehabilitation of the main spheres of the economy and a solution of the energy problems. Without this, mutually beneficial agreements will not be implemented and bilateral relations, which Western and Georgian business circles want to develop, will not develop. Without energy supplies and large- capacity transport routes, there can be no talk of the country's economic revival. This was the leitmotif of specific problems that had to be addressed by the republican leadership last week.

One of the important subjects of discussion with Mr. White was the problem of oil pipelines. I have already had the opportunity to say that Georgia would welcome a decision making it a country through which these oil pipelines will pass. At the same time, I also said that we are ready to take account of every country's interests.

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This should not be a one-country monopoly or a decision that favors one country. We should take account of the interests of every country involved in the dialogue concerning the construction of oil pipelines.

We are dealing with astronomical figures here. An enormous amount of oil is to be exported to Europe from Asian countries, including Central Asia and Azerbaijan. It is natural that this will lead to a major change in worldwide supply and demand for energy resources. It is important that Georgia is one of the participants in these major deals and its place in this dialogue is gradually becoming clearer.

According to data from the Finance Ministry, republican budget revenue has reached 55 trillion coupons since the start of this year. This includes 14 trillion coupons in tax and non-tax revenue [as heard] and a further 14 trillion coupons from the sale of goods received in the form of grants. To finance republican budget expenditure the National Bank has released credit worth 27 trillion coupons. You know the source of this credit—this is what international organizations are giving us.

Between 1-20 April, 5 trillion coupons in tax and non-tax revenue and 3 trillion coupons from the sale of goods received in the form of grants was paid into the republican budget. In April the republican government received $15 million as part of the World Bank rehabilitation credit. The population should know that, according to the law of 11 January 1995 on the 1995 budget of the Republic of Georgia, this credit is one of the main sources of funding the planned expenditure approved by the republican budget. The late receipt of this credit has caused serious problems in funding expenditure. Thank God this has now been rectified. [passage omitted: the coupon stable in Tbilisi, the dollar costs 1.3 million coupons]

The condition of the energy grid has become relatively stable. The frequency almost always reaches 55 Hz. This has allowed the grid to operate in relatively normal conditions. The amount of water has increased at all hydroelectric power stations, which is the main factor making it possible to control the situation. However, there is still a lot to be done. Last week the operation of the energy grid was controllable because consumers used electricity within the approved limits. [passage omitted: nonpayment of electricity bills remains a serious problem; energy problems to be discussed at a meeting tomorrow; some enterprises still unable to operate at full capacity because of residual energy problems]

[Oniani] A meeting of CIS foreign ministers was held last week, during which our side requested that the peacekeeping forces' mandate [in Abkhazia] should be widened. This request was followed by a statement from General Vasiliy Yakushev, [commander of Russian peacekeepers in Abkhazia]. He said that to be able to take real steps, the troops in Abkhazia should be entrusted with policing duties. The final decision will be made by CIS heads of state on 26 May. Your position, hopefully, does not differ from that of the foreign minister. Why has it become necessary to give wider powers to a force that so far has failed to make full use of the powers it already has?

Please allow me to remind you also of what Interior Minister Shota Kviraia has said at a republic-wide meeting. He said that Abkhazia had become a hotbed of terrorism and banditry in the CIS.

[Shevardnadze] The meeting of CIS defense and foreign ministers was attended by our representatives, Vardiko Nadibaidze with his group and Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze. Of course, they conveyed the position we had discussed and agreed upon in Tbilisi.

The issue of the return of refugees to Abkhazia has come to the fore. A lively debate on this issue is under way in Moscow. Of course, our representatives are taking part. We have always requested that the peacekeeping troops' mandate should speak in specific terms of security guarantees for the repatriated population. Unfortunately, it did not go beyond general phrases in the past. Now, quite rightly, the question of real security for every citizen is being discussed, real security for citizens. This is also what General Yakushev says, and this is good and must be welcomed. For the first time since taking command of the peacekeeping force he expressed the view that an effective mandate was needed to provide security guarantees for the repatriated population. There were also other interesting points in his statement.

The final decision on extending the mandate or giving it new quality will be made by the CIS heads of state. The days are coming that will decide the settlement of conflicts in Georgia. And, of course, in that respect, the Russian leadership is carrying out a unique mission, a unique mission. Georgia may become a country where conflicts have been settled relatively quickly, quite efficiently, and with the interests of all parties taken into account.

One should welcome the participation in the peace process of the United Nations—I mean the secretary general's special representative—European organizations, and others. CIS countries have also given us active support. I must say that at the meeting of defense and foreign ministers almost every CIS member state gave active support to the unity and territorial integrity of Georgia and demanded that the peaceful process of reunification of Georgian territory should be completed as soon as possible. I will end my answer to this question by saying that we can now see light at the end of the tunnel, as they say.

Now, as regards the final part of your question concerning terrorism, according to our information—and Mr. Shota Kviraia is right—the Ardzinba regime and Chechen militants have struck an important deal under which they would pitch camp in Abkhazia. This information has been checked through various channels and sources, and, unfortunately, it is correct. This movement

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toward Abkhazia has already started. If it happens, if such camps are set up in Abkhazia, then Abkhazia will become a base for terrorists and contract killers and will pose a threat not only to the region but also to other countries. We are taking all necessary measures to prevent this. Because of well-known reasons, our efforts are not sufficient, of course. A lot will depend on good coordination between our structures and corresponding Russian agencies. This work has already started, and I think that such a system of good coordination will be established.

Meanwhile, I appeal to the population that has remained in Abkhazia to oppose this criminal deal because, in the end, it will run counter to the interests of the population of Abkhazia, including the population that remains there—be they Abkhaz, Georgian, Russian, or other citizens—and the population and citizens who are to return to Abkhazia.

The danger of terrorism, terrorist groups, and the danger of easing the struggle against terrorism is evident from our example, from the problems and tragedies it has inflicted on us. And you know that several days ago I sent an urgent and rather long telegram of an informal nature to U.S. President Clinton in connection with the tragedy that struck Oklahoma City. You know how many people died at the hands of terrorists. I have noted that in his address three days ago, President Clinton demanded the death penalty for the terrorists. This is right. That is why I believe that as long as such bases and units are being set up—that is what I wrote to Mr. Clinton—all states should make a joint effort to raze to the ground, as they say, terrorism as a phenomenon, eradicate terrorism as a phenomenon in the life of our planet.

[Oniani] Can I return to the Abkhaz theme again? There is a lot of talk in Georgia today about a federal system. To what extent, you think, will a federal system help solve problems such as the problem of Abkhazia?

[Shevardnadze] I believe that a federal republic of Georgia, a federal system in Georgia would be the most acceptable form of state and territorial arrangement to ensure a peaceful and speedy resolution of the Abkhaz and Georgian-Osetian conflicts. This is not the only purpose of a federal system. It has other aspects as well. However, this is one of the main arguments in favor of a federal system. In building a new democratic state, we should not be afraid of taking courageous steps to deal with problems of national importance. Of course, broad international experience and our own experience should also be taken into account.

At the same time, we cannot go on forever being prisoners of our views, as is the case with some politicians. Life changes faster than our views. Therefore, in looking at the country's present and future, we should be guided by objective factors and not by obsolete, albeit traditional, ideas. In the near future there will be a more substantive dialogue with parliament and the people on this subject. In my opinion, many problems of substance concerning how the state is organized and the forthcoming elections should be decided by the people, by the population, by the citizens. [passage omitted: Shevardnadze refuses to answer a question about the arrest of former Defense Minister Kitovani, saying he discussed it before; he then stresses the importance of Easter]

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Estonia

Premier, PRC Envoy Discuss Opening Embassy

LD2404164495 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi today received Sun Dadong, PRC ambassador to Estonia. According to the government press service, Ambassador Sun Dadong said that China currently regards the relations between the two countries as positive in all aspects. Therefore, China is interested in Estonia's opening an embassy in Beijing.

The ambassador recalled the successful visit of Tiit Vahi to China in 1992 which laid the foundation for successful development of relations between Estonia and China. The ambassador also said that the Chinese Government supports Estonia's independence and sovereignty.

Tiit Vahi thanked China for its support and noted that Estonia is interested in even faster development of economic and trade relations with China and is considering the possibility of opening an Estonian embassy in Beijing. Vahi noted that sharing the experience of economic reforms would doubtlessly benefit both Estonia and China.

Increased First Quarter Budget Outlays Reported

WS2404144295 Tallinn BNS in English 1550 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 21, BNS—Allocations from the state budget in the first quarter grew by 56.6 percent compared to the same period last year, Finance Ministry budget department head Ants Liiver told BNS.

"In the first quarter of 1994, budget outlays amounted to 1.28 billion kroons, while more than two billion kroons was withdrawn from the state coffers in the first three months of this year," he said. The volume of Estonia's 1995 budget stands at 8.8 billion kroons.

Budget revenues in the first quarter of this year amounted to 1.95 billion kroons against last year's 1.54 billion kroons, indicating an increase of 26.65 percent, which corresponds to the target figures.

Liiver said budget revenues and expenditures are out of balance because revenues haven't been big enough to meet budget-sponsored institutions' requests for money to cover their expenses. He said that ministries, for example, asked in the first quarter for 2.05 billion kroons, which exceeded revenues by 99 million kroons.

There's no reason to sound the alarm, however, Liiver emphasized. "In the summer months, revenues should reach the level needed to meet the expenses," he said.

As a rule, at the beginning of the year less money flows into the state coffers than towards the end of the year. Last year, for example, revenues in January amounted to 7.5 percent and in December, to 10.5 percent of the annual total, Liiver said.

Revenues in January, February and March this year came to 7.0, 7.54 and 7.66 percent, respectively, of the annual target. Outlays amounted to 7.5, 6.7 and 8.6 percent of the planned total.

Liiver told BNS the problems with financing budget allocations may be due to an "oversight" on the part of the ministry. "The Finance Ministry, considering the tight budget, should probably have advised the government on how to plan allocations throughout the twelve months," he said.

Finance Minister Mart Opmann has said there are great reserves for economy on 1995 budget expenditures.

Budget Imbalances Reported

LD2404162095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, April 24 (FIA-Interfax)—Estonia has reported imbalances between revenues and spending in this year's budget, the first such setback since the monetary reform in 1992. Instead of the budget receiving the monthly-planned 8.33% of the year's plan, in January of this year revenues ran at 7%, 7.54% in February and 7.66% in March, a government spokesman told reporters in Tallinn at the weekend.

For his part, Head of the Finance Ministry's Budget Department Ants Liiver is confident the situation will be redressed by the end of the second quarter of 1995.

The government plans to narrow the gap by saving cutting back rather than through raising taxes, Liiver said. He said that to achieve this, the government will consider the question of bringing all budget funds under the Finance Ministry's control as well as of government reform before drafting next year's budget.

Latvia

Minister Favors Unconditional NPT Extension

LD2404171395 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs will make a speech at a conference devoted to the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York today. We offer you an interview with the Latvian foreign minister over the telephone from New York.

[Begin Birkavs recording] The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] was signed in 1968. It came into force in 1970 and provided that in 25 years a conference will be convened to consider extending the treaty.

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What does this treaty mean? It means that nuclear states—there are five such states: the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, and China—undertake not to give such weapons to other states that do not have nuclear weapons, not to help them acquire such nuclear weapons, to promote the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes, and to conduct talks honestly on putting an end to the nuclear arms race. In practice, the states that do not have nuclear weapons—that would also include Latvia which has joined the treaty—for their part undertake not to produce such weapons, not to acquire them, and to accept supervision by the International Atomic Energy Agency over all peaceful activities with regard to nuclear energy. Therefore, in our case it applies to [the nuclear physics research center at] Salaspils. Moreover, it is important that while currently discussing the issue of extending the treaty, not all the states in fact support it, because there are the so-called threshold countries which officially do not have nuclear weapons, but which are either very close to producing them or have them but do not admit it. Therefore, it is important, very important, that the conference votes for the extension of the treaty.

In practice, the treaty bans the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. That means that the number of nuclear states cannot be increased. But it does not ban vertical proliferation. That means that the production of nuclear weapons can continue, the explosive power can be developed, and the technical development of means of delivery is allowed. But at the same time talks on a test ban are also iun progress. They have not yet ended. It was thought that they would end by the beginning of this conference, but that has not happened.

In any case, for Latvia this conference is as important as it is for other states, because it concerns the future of the world. But it is also important for us that, in fact, we could not take part in any of the previous conferences—neither in the 1968 conference nor in the review conferences which have been taking place every five years—because we were occupied. This is the first conference where we can express our view, which is to support the unconditional extension of the treaty indefinitely. And setting out the Latvian position and precise definitions concerning our vision of the future of this treaty are at the basis of my speech. [end recording]

Official on Russia's Use of Force in Chechnya

WS2504100295 Tallinn BNS in English 1811 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Apr 24, BNS—Russia's latest international activities and high-ranking officials' statements show that war in Chechnya has not kept "Russian leaders" off using force but even persuaded them of just the opposite, a high-ranking Latvian Foreign Ministry's official told BNS.

Obviously there are many politicians in Russia who think that using of military force and threat of using it are acceptable measures in international politics at the end of the 20th century, he said.

The Latvian FM official thinks that Russian officials' statements on tragedy in Samashki village in Chechnya, where many civilians were killed, are especially cynical.

In addition, Russia tried to keep these events in secret from the world by not allowing international organizations' observers as well as Russian and foreign journalists to be present in this village.

No political aims and ambitions, economic or other interests do not justify aggression against civilians and destroying of cities, said Latvian foreign ministry's official.

Russia Agrees To Resume Gas Supply

LD2404145895 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1301 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of last week representatives of the state-owned Latvijas Gaze company agreed in Moscow with the leadership of the Russian Gazprom concern that gas supplies will be resumed. The Latvian-Russian gas pipeline is again working from today.

Since Latvijas Gaze agrees to pay for the gas 10 days in advance, the Russian concern will reduce its price. It was concluded during the meeting that Latvia is the second best client after Estonia as far as payment is concerned. Thus, the pumping of gas into the gas repository at Incukalns for the next gas consumption season resumed today.

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